Congress opens session today for youth listing

STORY ON PAGE A2

SINO KAYA SIYA ?

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001 ★ 90 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 101 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE

▨ **Gov't plans 7-year bond float**
BUSINESS / B1

▨ **Brazil tries to save sinking rig**
WORLD / A11

▨ **'People power' vs Bt-corn test**
ACROSS / A16

▨ **Cityhood of Meycauayan**
B21-B23

Marcos crony tries to get escrow fund

Swiss court asked to lift freeze on $650M–Salonga

BY DONNA S. CUETO

EVEN as the government pursues alleged billions of dollars worth of Swiss bank assets of the Marcos family, it is in danger of watching $650 million slip through its fingers, a former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government has said.

A crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has asked the Swiss Federal Court to lift a freeze order on a controversial $650-million escrow account "because a deadline under Swiss law has expired," according to former PCGG Chair Jovito Salonga.

Salonga said the government could lose the escrow account containing Marcos Swiss deposits frozen in 1986 because of its failure to wrap up its 10-year-old forfeiture case against the Marcoses "within a reasonable time limit."

Salonga cited a letter sent to him by a former PCGG Swiss lawyer, Sergio Salvioni, dated Jan. 22, two days after President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office.

"I send you herewith the detailed arguments of the Swiss Federal Court in a case of a Filipino crony who requested the lifting of the freeze because of the deadline under Swiss had expired (sic)," Salvioni said in the letter addressed to Dutch lawyer Peter Hoets.

Salonga did not identify the Marcos friend or specify when the request was made. He could not say either what specific deadline under Swiss law had not been met.

But former Solicitor General Frank Chavez, who filed the forfeiture case in December 1991, said: "There is no deadline. The Swiss courts cannot dictate on the Philippine courts what the deadline should

MARCOS/ A20

CURTISS Waters: "I'll never betray a friend."

'I never met with Aranetas'

BY CURTISS WATERS

(Editor's note: The following is the reaction of an American businessman to the INQUIRER'S special report on Irene Marcos and Greggy Araneta's alleged attempt to launder Swiss funds through a German bank last month. Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi identified Waters as a Marcos family friend who introduced two other American businessmen to Edna Camcam, another close friend of the late dictator's family. Camcam was allegedly trying to help the Aranetas find a "friendly banker" to get their money out of Switzerland. As a note of interest, Waters names Jacobi's Deutsche Bank contact, apparently referring to the "friendly banker," as a certain Joachim Strache.)

I READ with interest the INQUIRER's articles regarding the alleged Marcos money-laundering scam. I was only informed of the reports through the following e-mail message from Timothy A. Boardman, received on Sunday, March 11 (Monday in Manila):

Curtiss,

I am sure at this moment you have not yet been informed of the events of the day in Manila.

I would like to start by saying

I NEVER/ A20

Navy men shoo away 10 Chinese vessels

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA, ROCKY NAZARENO AND CARLITO PABLO

THE PHILIPPINE Navy last week shooed away 10 Chinese fishing vessels from the Scarborough Shoal, a rocky outcrop in the South China Sea being contested by the Philippines and China.

The shoal is 128 nautical miles off Zambales and 650 nautical miles from the nearest Chinese shoreline.

To avoid a diplomatic row, the Philippine Navy did not arrest the Chinese fishermen when the BRP Quezon chanced upon their vessels at the shoal.

The Navy personnel, accompanied by officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, confiscated endangered giant clams and illegal fishing implements, including cyanide and dynamite, from the vessels.

The military considers the incursions a "strong challenge to Philippine sovereignty."

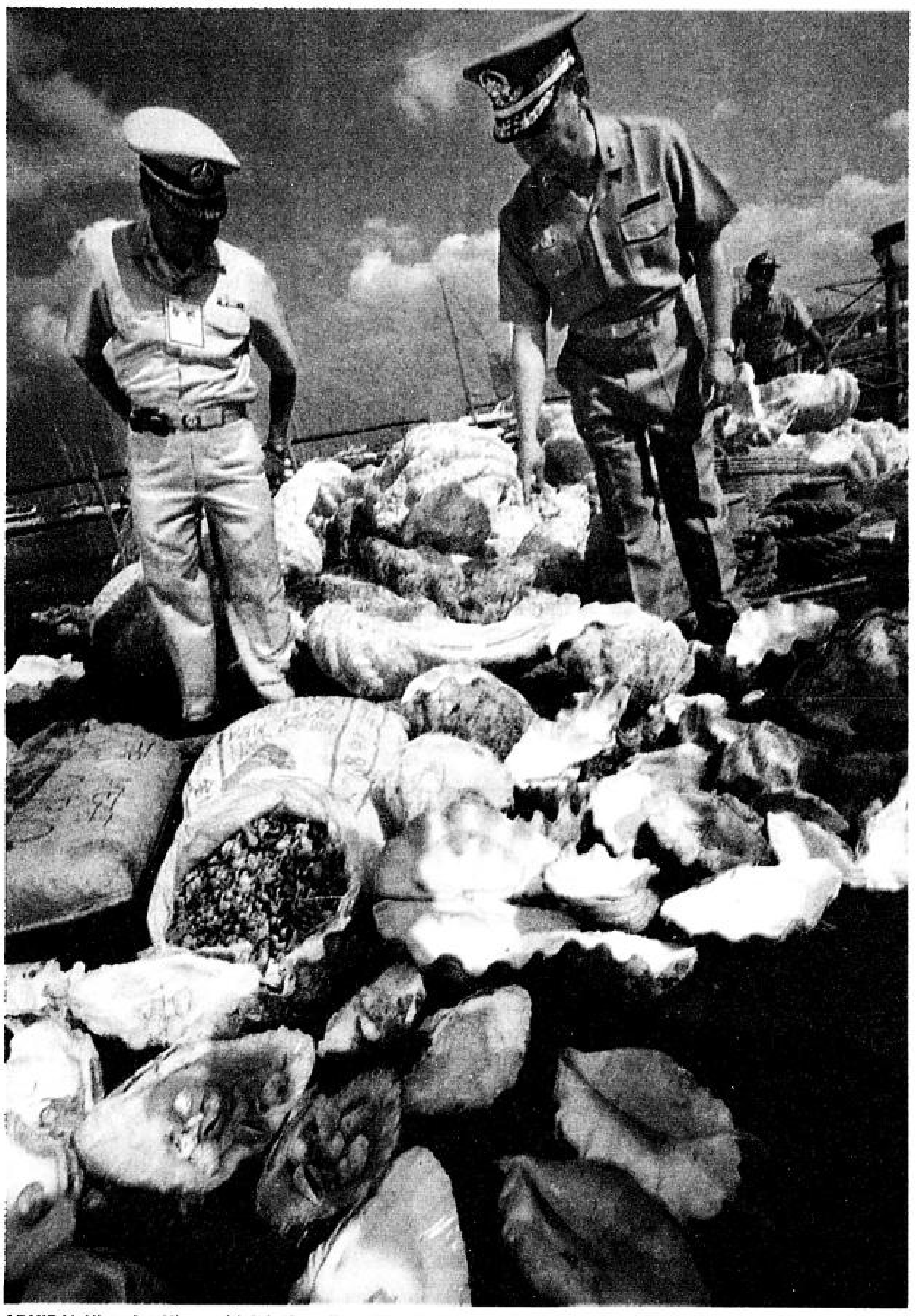
In a "confidential special report," the military expressed fears that China was secretly building structures on the shoal following reports of new Chinese incursions into the shoal.

"Recently, routine patrols noted the increased frequency of Chinese vessel intrusions into the shoal. During the first two months this year, several Chinese fishing boats have already intruded into Scarborough Shoal," the report said.

The "intensified Chinese intrusions" have prompted the Philippines to plant more flags on the 16-square-kilometer rock formation to strengthen its claims over the shoal, according to the military.

The report said that on March 14, military aircraft spotted seven

NAVY/ A18



ADMIRAL Victorino Hingco (right), Navy flag officer-in-command, inspects the giant clams, dynamite and cyanide seized from Chinese fishermen who were caught illegally fishing near Scarborough Shoal. ERIK ARAZAS

RP among most corrupt in Asia, survey shows

SINGAPORE—The Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Thailand and China were perceived the most corrupt economies in Asia, the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) said in its latest survey on corruption.

Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan are the least corrupt, while Malaysia, South Korea and Taiwan fell just below the average, the PERC survey revealed.

"One would have hoped that the economic crisis that hit the Asian region in 1997 would have been a wake-up call to the problem of corruption," PERC said.

"Unfortunately, our survey indicates that the problem, as those working in the countries of the region perceive it, has not really improved very much during the past four years," the Hong Kong-based consultancy firm said.

In some countries, corruption even worsened compared to the precrisis year.

Surveying more than 700 expatriate businessmen working in 12 Asian economies, PERC found that "the perception is clearly that corruption remains a serious problem in most countries."

While graft exists in almost every country in the world, a country can distinguish itself in the ability of its legal system to fight the

RP/ A18

100 private armies of candidates listed

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

POLICE have identified close to a hundred private armies whose leaders or principals are running for local posts in the May 14 elections, indicating that warlordism is still very much alive despite the clamor for "new politics."

In a confidential police watchlist of partisan armed groups (PAGs), the names of at least three former and incumbent congressmen cropped up, along with four governors and at least 15 mayors, who are mostly from Mindanao.

As the elections draw near, the PAGs are expected to either harass their principals' rivals or engage in criminal activities to raise campaign funds, according to the report. The activities include kidnapping-for-ransom, robbery-holdup, extortion and drug trafficking.

Police said that in Tinangis, Camarines Sur, penal farm inmates were allegedly being "utilized" for illegal partisan operations.

One of the more prominent names on the list was last-termer Samar Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon, who is fielding his wife Paz as his successor.

Tuazon allegedly keeps a group of 15 members, four of whom had

100 PRIVATE/ A18

The real issue is justice for the people

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE POOR are again being duped to gain votes in the May senatorial election. After they were manipulated by the deposed President Joseph Estrada to serve as the life raft of his sinking administration—sunk by corruption, that is—the opposition has bannered the *masa* as its battle cry in the campaign for the Senate.

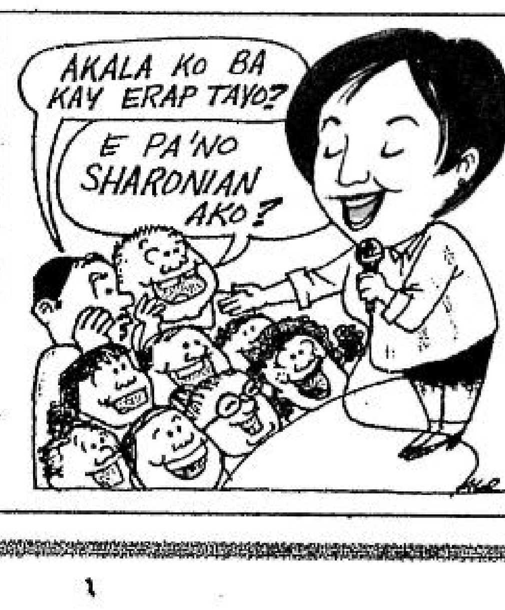
It has been reported that thugs recruited from the *masa* were planted in administration party rallies in Davao to disrupt the meetings. The opposition has adopted "Puwersa ng Masa" as its identification label. And some of its candidates, who have never known what poverty is about, have spearheaded the hate campaign against the Makati rich to massage back to life Estrada's discredited and phony class war.

The highlighting of the *masa* agenda and the rich-versus-poor theme illustrates the bankruptcy of the opposition campaign programs and its failure to find a theme around which to organize an alternative program that should deserve the support of the people, as well as that of the poor.

At the outset, I'd like to state that it is unhealthy for democracy to wipe out the opposition in elections because an opposition keeps a sitting government on its toes. But when the opposition ticket presents itself as the heir of Estrada's "*para sa masa*" rhetoric, it is picking up the corpse of a fraud perpetrated by Estrada on the poor during his short-lived administration.

It is, therefore, a disappointment that

THE REAL/ A6


AKALA KO BA KAY ERAP TAYO?
E PA'NO SHARONIAN AKO?

Sharon silences pro-Erap hecklers

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—One of the two "not-so-secret" weapons of the People Power Coalition used her charms on a rowdy crowd and turned the tide in favor of the administration-backed senatorial candidates against pro-Estrada hecklers.

It was no secret that megastar Sharon

SHARON/ A18

Second FRONT PAGE

HUWAG NYO NANG PATAGALIN YAN, HAI

Congress tackles youth listing

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND GERALD LACUARTA

THE FATE of 4.5 million first-time voters whose failure to register last year means their certain disenfranchisement in the May 14 elections will be known at the end of a three-day Congress session to pass a special registration law, which opens today.

Despite boycott threats from some opposition senators, Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has said that he has been assured of the attendance of at least 12 senators—more than the number required to make up a quorum.

The vexed question of a special registration has quickly turned into a partisan issue.

Reelectionist Sen. Miriam Santiago, who chairs the Senate electoral reform committee, says she will boycott the session and accuse the administration of "preparing for the registration of flying voters."

Youth groups affiliated with the Bayan Muna and Akbayan party list groups petitioning for the special registration yesterday demanded the resignation of Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo for alleged incompetence and inefficiency.

Benipayo has been pessimistic about the feasibility of holding a special registration, citing possible election law violations and lack of time.

"I'm afraid we will not go places until Benipayo resigns from his post," said Bayan Muna-Youth spokesperson Leonardo Guevarra Jr.

Sen. Blas Ople said last Friday Santiago's boycotting the special session created a problem because there would be no one to head the Senate electoral reform committee, the body that is supposed to endorse the special registration law.

He said Pimentel would have to talk to Santiago who was the "majority choice" to head the committee.

Pimentel expressed optimism that the special registration law could be immediately tackled by converting the Senate into a committee of the whole.

But Ople said he was not sure all the senators would agree to such a proposal.

He noted the Senate had only twice before converted itself into a committee of the whole—to pass the World Trade Organization and the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Expected to attend the special session are the group of relectionist senators—Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sergio Osmeña, Frank Drilon and Juan Ponce Enrile.

Senators Renato Cayetano and Loren Legarda, who are officials of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, are also expected to attend.

Sen. Ramon Revilla issued a press statement two weeks ago that he would cancel his vacation plans so as to attend the special session.

Ople has also said he would be attending.

Aside from Santiago, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who is campaign manager of the opposition Puwersa ng Masa senatorial slate, plans to boycott the session.

Guevarra warned opposition congressmen and senators threatening to boycott the special Congress that they face the judgment of voters on election day.

"It is so hypocritical of Santiago, the self-styled champion of the Constitution, to deny the youth their constitutional right of suffrage," Guevarra said.

Anakbayan chair Renato Reyes Jr. said Santiago, Sotto and Sen. John Osmeña would be junked by the youth in the May 14 and future elections.

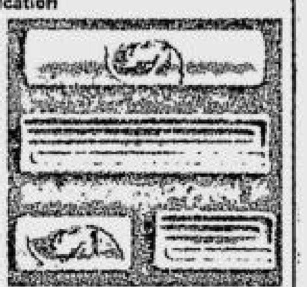
"These legislators know that the youth will not favor their agenda," Reyes said. "They do not want us to vote."

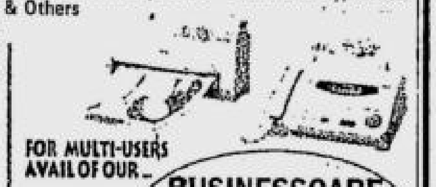
Enrile said he doubted that Congress could pass the necessary law within three days. He said the "time is very limited."

Benipayo has warned that the proposed special registration would seriously compromise the integrity of the voters' list and consequently the May 14 elections. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

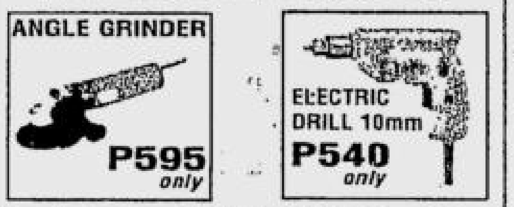
NOW!
BAD BREATH CAN BE COMPLETELY CURED
Safe • Fast • Painless • at Reasonable Cost
Uses HALIMETER to detect bacteria-causing bad breath, then applies patented medication & treatment to bring effective results.
Succeeding treatments are FREE! Regain your confidence!
Dental Clinic: Rent/Lease w/ Complete Facilities
Suite #224 Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. No. 811-4071 • 752-4735

FREE "BORACAY" FLY
POLOAIR TRAVEL
HONGKONG $260
BANGKOK $230
MACAU H.K. $225
DOMESTIC/INT'L PROMO FARES
ALI MALL CUBAO 912-6139
MAKATI CINEMA 811-1497
HARRISON PLAZA 525-1365
SM CENTERPOINT 715-2736


ELSTEIN Elstein-Werk
Infrared Radiation Elements
For your INDUSTRIAL HEATING NEEDS
• Excellent Radiation Properties
• Wide variety of application
• Superior service life
• Easy to install
• High power density
Trusted for over 5 decades.
Recommended worldwide.
Produced using first class quality materials.
MADE IN GERMANY
For inquiries, pls. call:
THERMOTROL ELECTRICAL SALES & SERVICES
Tels. 984-7103 to 05
STOCKS READILY AVAILABLE


Restore your defective equipment at Affordable Cost!
We Specialize in COMPUTER & FAX REPAIRS
We also repair: Laptops • Printers • Monitors/ Keyboards • Electronic Typewriter UPS, Shredders & Others
The most ECONOMICAL maintenance program EVER!
✓ Full staff of skilled and experienced engineers and technicians.
✓ From simple cleaning to major trouble shooting.
✓ Repairs can be carried out right at your office, minimizing downtime.
✓ Respond to service calls within a couple of hours.
FOR MULTI-USERS AVAIL OF OUR BUSINESSCARE Assure 2001 SERVICE & MAINTENANCE PROGRAM
BUSINESSCARE S.T.C. Inc.
COMPUTERS•FAX•PRINTERS•TELEPHONES•NETWORKING•PROGRAMMING
QUEZON CITY Unit 206, Corporate Center Bldg., 948 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City Tel: 912-1077 • 912-1089
MANILA Unit 30 Osmeña Bldg., 1991 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila Tel: 536-6576 • 536-6573
MAKATI G/F Century Plaza Bldg., 120 Perea St., L.V., Makati Tel: 893-0898•893-1594•893-1597

PABX
Sales Department
Meeting Room
Voice mail
Cellular Phone
Facsimile Machine
Service Department
Panasonic PABX
100% BRAND NEW
SPECIAL PACKAGE UNITS
1 PABX (3) Tel. by (8) LOCAL CAPACITY
1 PANASONIC TELEPHONE OPERATOR
7 SINGLE LINE PHONE
P22,000!
(6) Tel. Lines by (16) locals / (12) Tel. Lines by (64) locals
• brand new products
• 1-year warranty on parts and service
12 years of providing Outstanding Communication Products & Services
intel Communication Corp.
Suite 451 RSM Building, Sta Cruz, Manila
Tel. 733-2549 • 736-1206 • 733-0697


REAL BRAND POWER TOOLS
Brand New with Warranty
ANGLE GRINDER P595 only
ELECTRIC DRILL 10mm P540 only
call us now at TUPA Philippines
Sampaloc: 735-4494/735-1272/736-8058
Banawe: 414-6650 to 51
cel nos.: 0919-3511685 • 0919-3205640
other Power Tools also available

HONG KONG 4D/3N $259 min. 2 pax
Hong Kong city tour w/ lunch at TGI Friday; Shenzhen tour w/ lunch, Window of D World
MACAU W/ CHINA 4D/3N $245 min. 3 pax
Overnight in Zuhai, China
Shopping at Bargain Center, Lotus St.
MACAU W/ HONG KONG 4D/3N $276 min. 2 pax
2 night Hong Kong w/ city tour & lunch at TGI Friday
BANGKOK 4D/3N $295
SINGAPORE 4D/3N $353
PROMO FARE TO: PTAA LIC. TA 343

• Hong Kong	$225	• Sydney	$580
• Bangkok	225	• Los Angeles	527
• Singapore	288	• San Francisco	575
• Tokyo	418	• New York	730
• Osaka	335	• Vancouver	680
• Seoul	418	• Europe	838

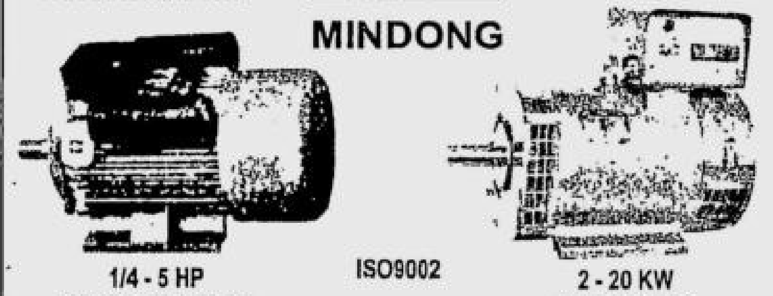
UNION TRAVEL & TOURS
Tels.: 524-3943 or 44 • 524-8609 or 10 • 525-3034 or 45

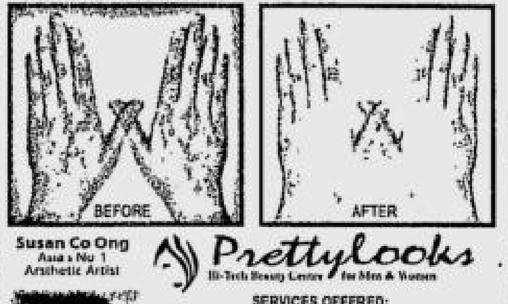
"For a strong body, tranquil mind & revitalized soul!"
First Class Pampering Made Affordable
Relax, recharge and reward yourself with a visit to our newly opened spa.
Shiatsu/Swedish Massage...
Foot Therapy... and Body Scrub.
We'll be glad to pamper you from Mon-Sun
12:30 - 8:30 PM
Call Now: 776-8188
TIP TOP SHAPE Health and Fitness Center
2nd Floor Casipit Place1
14 Doña Soledad Avenue, Better Living.
Parañaque City

BESTSELLING RICOH COPIERS
P23,000. ONLY
RICOH FT 2200 220 V 60Hz
P11,000. ONLY
RICOH 780 / 810 220 V 60Hz
KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN
MINOLTA, CANON, TOSHIBA RISO, MITA, RICOH, SHARP, ETC.
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 M. Jhocson St. Sampaloc Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Dealers: Cabanatuan 463-3415 • Cebu 253-2402 • Batung (0919)837-1080 • Tarlac (0919)842-5559
E-mail copytrade com@pacific.net.ph

HAVE A SMASHING SUMMER!
GREAT DISCOUNT PACKAGES!
Study at VERNON TAPALLA'S
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE
CP 1 On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development
CP 2 On Grammar & Conversational English
CP 3 On Public Speaking & Leadership Training
WP 1 On Business & Technical Writing
WP 2 On Feature & Creative Writing
PSC (For Pre-Schoolers) On Speech, Personality Development, Reading & Writing
JCP 1 & 2 (For Elementary Students) On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Personality Dev't., & Reading Comprehension
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE
MAKATI - 845-0886 / 753-1048 to 49
ALABANG - 850-4756 / 850-4757
QUEZON CITY - 372-4914 / 372-4915

EverTel
5-line Phone + Intercom
Like PABX BUT PRICE IS CHEAPER
SUPER SALE!
Evertel can provide any telecom requirements like 3-LINE & 2-LINE PHONE, FASHION PHONE, CORDLESS PHONE, 2-WAY RADIO, etc.
You've got the best value for your money!
EverTel Phils. Corp.
Manila: 749-5464 732-9432
Makati: 892-7509 892-7522
ACCREDITED BY: PLDT ISO NTC


For protection against imitation units ALWAYS look for the LOGO and ask for the warranty card policy furnished by SUPER TRADE ENTERPRISES to make sure that what you are purchasing is the ORIGINAL MINDONG.
Get the original
MINDONG
NOTE: Imitation units contain lesser copper winding which greatly reduces quality of performance.
1/4 - 5 HP ELECTRIC MOTOR
ISO9002
2 - 20 KW ALTERNATOR
EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY.
SUPER TRADE ENTERPRISES
937 EDSA, Philam, Quezon City, Metro Manila 1104 Philippines
Tel.: (632) 929-9069 Fax: (632) 927-3275



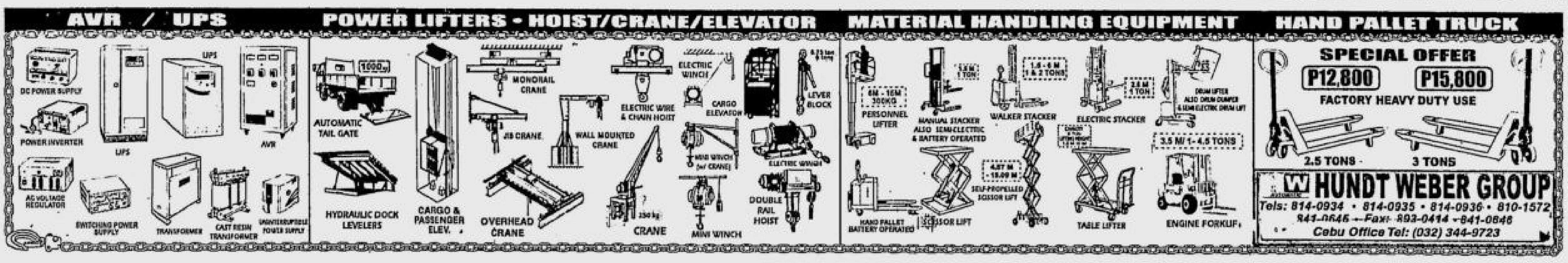
Wrinkled hands full of ugly veins?
Here's the easy & permanent solution...
CALL US TO THE RESCUE!
INTRODUCING COLLAGEN REPLACEMENT THERAPY
Susan Co Ong Asia's No 1 Aesthetic Artist
Prettylooks Hi-Tech Beauty Centre for Men & Women
SERVICES OFFERED:
• AESTHETIC TATTOO (EYEBROWS, EYELINE & LIPS) • LIP AUGMENTATION • NON-SURGICAL FACELIFT • NOSE LIFT • BUST LIFT • BREAST AUGMENTATION • BUTTLIFT • EYELID • RECOSTRUCT DAMAGED TATTOO • VARICOSE & SPIDER VEIN TREATMENT • WHITENING TABLET • INSTANT WHITENING • WARTS REMOVAL • LASER OMNILASE TREATMENT • FRECKLE REMOVAL • EYELASHES PERMING
FOR FREE CONSULTATION, VISIT OR CALL US AT:
Unit 224-225 Bldg. #2 Central Park I, Gen. Tinio St., cor. Binay St., Bangkal, Makati City
Tels. 889-4830 to 31 • Cell No. 0917-518-0675
www.prettylooks.com
OTHER BRANCHES:
DAVAO - (082) 2228118 LOOK FOR MILA K. • (082) 2215780 LOOK FOR MILA ZONIO • (0919) 3588873 • (0917) 366-0482 / CEBU - (032) 3453871 LOOK FOR YING • CELL NO. (0917) 9256869 / GEN. SANTOS - (083) 5525010 / BINONDO - (02) 733-6794 • USA - (707) 5292162

LOW COST PACKAGE TOUR!
HONGKONG
$280 4D Ramada 3*
$255 4D Panda 3*
$268 3D Harbour Plaza 5*
$339 4D Marco Polo / Prince 5*
Citibank cardholder no surcharge
SINGAPORE $328 3D $338 4D Oxford Hotel 3* via PAL +$20 Johure, Malaysia +$50 Malacca Tour
BANGKOK $225 4D FOUR SEASONS $445 6N BKK/KUL $435 VIA THAI 6N BKK/SIN
Star Cruise $561 VIRGO (EX-SIN) 4D $501 LEO (EX-HKG) 3D
HOLYLAND 5D $ 1,658
AUSTRALIA 4D FROM $ 559
OTHER HOTELS AVAILABLE & WE GUARANTEE BEST RATES
BUDGET AIRFARES

	OW / RT		OW / RT		OW / RT
HKG 90D	310	Jakarta	255 / 450	San Francisco	455 / 570
Hongkong	162 / 210	Seoul	180 / 385	New York	455 / 670
Bangkok	145 / 205	Riyadh	380 / 720	Vancouver	440 / 570
Singapore	218 / 295	Chicago	540 / 960	Toronto	420 / 820
Taipei	215 / 305	Guam	432 / 664	Sydney	425 / 610
Osaka	235 / 337	Honolulu	375 / 458	Melbourne	390 / 585
K. Lumper	215 / 260	Los Angeles	465 / 510	Europe	391 / 700

Domestic tickets available - all airlines....
We assist in securing passports, visas and immigration clearances.
TRANSNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
LG-12 Herrera Tower, Herrera St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tels.: 753-3388 /3005 / 1121 / 817-1566 / 1571
Fax: 753-5588 • 845-0679 Cell No:(0917) 535-1581 / 791-8236
Mandaluyong: 747-1284 E-mail: trantl@amadeusph.com
CEBU: (032) 233-2754 / 56 • Fax (032) 233-2756 PTAA
• E-mail: transtvl_cebu@skylnet.net

Card-type remote
Big presentations so light on your bag and budget.
New! PT-LC50E Micro-portable LCD Projector
Only 2.5 kg.
• Ultra-compact and lightweight • SXGA max resolution • Functional slim design • DTV-ready design and picture mode selection • Automatic keystone correction for perfect rectangular screen • Card type remote control • Actual size: 10 1/2" x 2 3/8" x 8 1/8"
Get this latest model and bring home your FREE Detachable Swivel Stand and Bag.
Panasonic
cosmotech Communications and Systems Company
Tel.nos. 894-3678 / 889-4734 and 889-4629



AVR / UPS
POWER LIFTERS • HOIST/CRANE/ELEVATOR
MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT
HAND PALLET TRUCK
SPECIAL OFFER P12,800 P15,800
FACTORY HEAVY DUTY USE
HUNDT WEBER GROUP
Tels: 814-0934 • 814-0935 • 814-0936 • 810-1572 • 841-0646 • Fax: 893-0414 • 841-0646
Cebu Office Tel: (032) 344-9723

Erap will ask SC to reconsider today

By Dona Pazzibugan

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada will ask the Supreme Court today to reverse its unanimous March 2 decision declaring Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo the legitimate president of the Philippines.

Estrada said yesterday his lawyers would submit a motion for reconsideration today, the last of the 15-day period to file an appeal.

The deposed leader said he was optimistic the high court would reverse its ruling and declare him "president on leave."

More importantly, Estrada will attempt to convince the justices that he should still enjoy immunity from suit.

"I hope I will get justice from the Supreme Court," Estrada said in Filipino when interviewed during a campaign rally of the Puwersa ng Masa senatorial ticket in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Asked what his argument would be in his appeal, Estrada said he would ask the Supreme Court not to base its decision on the published "diary" of former executive secretary Edgardo Angara and news reports.

Need Help? We fix all computer problems,
...specially computer VIRUS!
FAST & RELIABLE
ON-SITE SERVICE
ALL WORKS GUARANTEED
Call our hotline today
303-8888
Service & Support
PCMed Technicians
Save this ads for your future requirements.

SUMMER SPECIAL PROMO
HONG KONG $285 4D 3N RAMADA KOWLOON $280 BP INT'L w/SHENZHEN $260 PANDA W. SHENZHEN LUNCH AT TGI FRIDAYS
BANGKOK $230 4D 3N VIA AF FIRST HOUSE TOUR SEASONS $235 4D 3N VIA THAI AIRWAYS FIRST HOUSE TOUR SEASONS $255 4D 3N VIA PAL
SINGAPORE $340 3D 2N VIA PAL OXFORD $370 4D/3N GRAND CENTRAL
HONG KONG/MACAU ADVENTURE $289 1N/MACAU 2N/HKG $219 HOTEL ROYAL 4D/3N
JOIN! [illegible] PILGRIMAGE DEPARTURE MAY [illegible]
LOCAL TOURS BORACAY PALAWAN
DOMESTIC TICKET AGENTS FOR PAL CEBU PACIFIC/AIR PHIL ASIAN SPIRIT WE ACCEPT VISA/MASTERCARD PAY'T
BUDGET FARES
HONG KONG $210 JAKARTA $445
BANGKOK $210 NEW YORK $800
SINGAPORE $280 VAN/BCE/WINN $650 $33[illegible]
OSAKA $330 TAIPEI $32[illegible]
TOKYO $430 SYDNEY $650
LAX/SFO $660 TORONTO $680
SEOUL $340
TOTAL MILEAE TRAVEL $ TOURS
TEL.#:913.2343/913.2345.421.8745/421.8744
CELL.#0919.842.5951/0917.9836840/0919.819.7724
E-MAIL:tmtt@edsamail.com.ph CANDON/ILOCOS:077.7424205
SANS TRAVEL & TOURS
TEL.#:439.5749/439.5769/913.9508/913.9560/729.3036
CELL.#0917.4510203/0917.4743362/0919.8380163
E-MAIL:sans trvl@pacific.net URDANETA:075.5683555
ORIOL TOURS & TRAVEL
CAVITE:TEL.#:(046) 419.2785
CELL.#0917.669.1086
0917.3953706/0919.5665553

THE GOLD STANDARD IN CAR EMBLEMS

2Years Warranty TruGold 24 CARAT
Gold plating for Car Emblems & Other Accessories While-U-Wait
OPEN FOR FRANCHISING
TRANSAD 4596 Enrique St., Palanan, Makati
Tels: 832-5407/833-8349 Fax 832-5917

Diamonds...
We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELERIES.
Any size!
Any quality!
Any quantity!
(Also old cut and yellow stones!)
From PAWNSHOP, FINANCERS and PRIVATES.
We pay only CASH, DOLLARS or Pesos.
(We are serving all provinces in the Philippines.)
Tel: 636-2815 • Pager: 1277-89270
We will help you to redeem your item
Special arrangement for regular suppliers

Centralized Lubrication System
AUTO-LUBE
FOR OIL OR GREASE
Lubricate machinery continuously and precisely.
ELECTRIC LUBRICATOR
AUTOMATIC GREASE LUBRICATOR
HAND OIL LUBRICATOR
HAND GREASE LUBRICATOR
Exclusive distributor:
FACILITY INTEGRATED SYSTEMS
Tels.: 365-78-66 to 68 Fax: 364-00-69

NIBOR
CASH for DIAMONDS
NIBOR DIAMOND BUYING OFFICE of the PHILIPPINES
top caliber appraisals from INTERNATIONALLY EXPERIENCED GEMOLOGISTS
• INSTANT CASH for diamonds 3 carat & above.
• REIMBURSEMENT of TRAVEL EXPENSES of out of town sellers if sale is consummated.
• REDEMPTION ASSISTANCE of jewelries and diamonds from pawnshops & banks.
ALL TRANSACTIONS KEPT CONFIDENTIAL
Tel.: 726-4749 • Mobile: (0917) 536-2456
Monday-Saturday 9am-5pm
Office: Makati City • Office & Factory: CENTRAL BUILDING, 27 August St., Cubao, Quezon City

KENSTAR Travel Corporation
ISO 9002 Certified Travel Management Company
TELEPHONE NOS. 5241211 to 16
www.kenstartravel.com info@kenstartravel.com
DOT ACCREDITED TO- 173-99 TIA-312-90 IATA PTAA/PIATA
HONGKONG
Buy1 Take 1 Extended!
from US$572 for 2 people!
RT Airfare via PAL, RT Transfers, 4D3N Accom., Daily Breakfast, HK IslandTour and Shenzhen Shopping Tour w/ Dinner
SINGAPORE w/Johore Bahru, Malaysia
from US$399
RT Airfare via PAL, RT Transfers, 4D3N Accom., Daily Breakfast, Half Day Tour of Singapore & Johore Bahru, Malaysia
Roundtrip Airfares
LAX US$735 New York US$840
SFO 735 Vancouver 740
Historic ILOCOS from 4589/person
Agoo, Laoag, Pagudpud & Vigan
RT Bus Transfers, Daily Breakfast & 1 Lunch, 3D2N Accom., Guided Tours
TOUR DATES:
Apr 10-12 and Apr 20-22, 2001

EZ Kleen portalet corp.
Special Events?
Also available in Clark, Pampanga
New PORTABLE TOILETS
Construction Projects
Ground Breaking
Trade Exhibits
Concerts
School Events
Fairs/Parties
SEPTIC TANK SERVICING
For Rentals:
6367047/6352823
0917-9838102

Across Tour Packages
"No one can please God without faith, for whoever comes to God must have faith that God exists and rewards those who seek Him." HEBREWS 11:6
EGYPT-ISRAEL TOUR 12 Days DEP. DATE: every Sunday
ITALY-PORTUGAL-FRANCE-IRELAND-DENMARK-SWEDEN-POLAND DEP. DATE: JUNE 2001
ITALY & FRANCE TOUR 15 Days DEP. DATE: every Thursday
PORTUGAL-SPAIN-MOROCCO TOUR 17 Days DEP. DATE: every Monday
TURKEY-GREECE TOUR 16 Days DEP. DATE: every Friday
TOUR PACKAGES
HONG KONG 4DAYS/3NIGHTS US$ 290.00 AUSTRALIA 4DAYS/3NIGHTS US$ 575.00
BANGKOK 4DAYS/3NIGHTS US$ 257.00 BRUNEI 3DAYS/2NIGHTS US$ 408.00
SINGAPORE 3DAYS/2NIGHTS US$ 330.00 GUAM 3DAYS/2NIGHTS US$ 460.00
Diadem International Travel & Tours Incorporated
CALL: 525-7081, 536-4549, 536-4550, 522-7404
FAX: 523-7840 • E-MAIL: diadem@i-manila.com.ph
2002 Roxas Blvd. Cor. San Juan St., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines

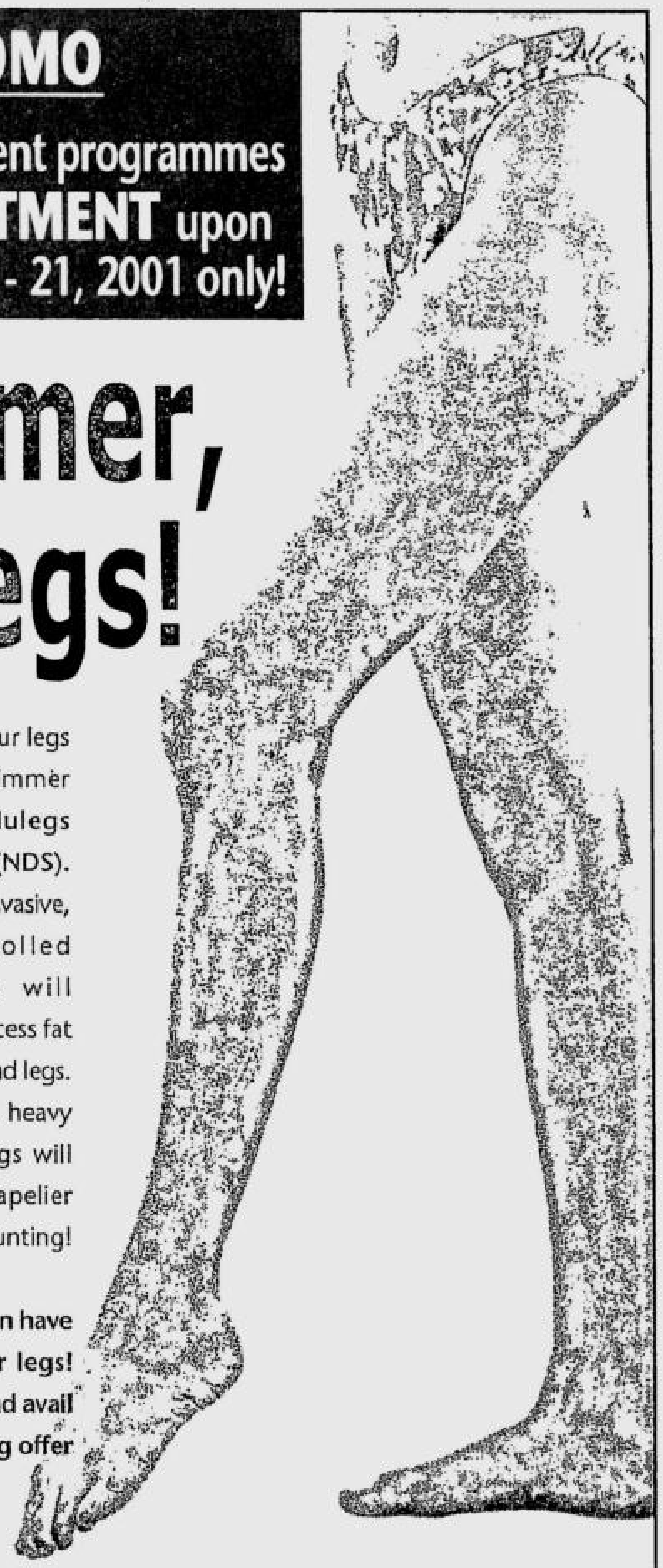
One Mercedes Plaza (Pasig)
cor. Mercedes & Market Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City
With Rustan's Express Lane, Jollibee, BPI Express Banking, Mr.Quickie among others as anchor stores is now accepting lease application for FASTFOOD OPERATORS, CELLPHONE STORES, COURIER, ELECTRONIC, NOVELTY, JEWELRY,WATCH STORE, SERVICES ETC.
For interested to lease Please send your letter of intent to:
Consult us-Tel.9130626 Tfax: 9113563
Nancy/Kaloi-Tel. 6402145 Tfax:6402975

DLI GENERICS
QUALITY NA MURA PA SA BOTICA
Suggested Retail Price

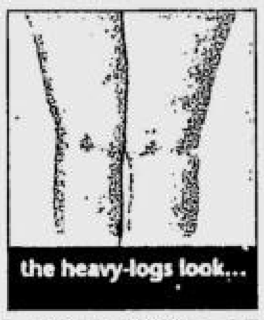
	Price		Price
Ambroxol Capsule 75 mg	6.50	Diclofenac Sod. Film Coated Tablet 50 mg	4.70
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.75	Glibenclamide Tablet 5 mg	2.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	6.00	INH - Syrup 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00
Amoxicillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.50
Ampicillin Capsule 500 mg	7.25	Loperamide HCl Capsule 2 mg	2.75
Ampicillin Powder for Injection 500 mg, vial	35.00	Mefenamic Acid Capsule 250 mg	2.50
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.75	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.50	Multi-Vitamin Tablet	3.00
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	49.00	Paracetamol Syrup 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	36.50
Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11.00	Paracetamol Tablet 500 mg	0.90
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	75.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam-PZA 300/450/500 mg	27.00/day	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	15.00
Combi Pack - INH-Rifam 300/450 mg	18.00/day	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	42.00
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg), 60 mL	56.00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	1.75
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-80 mg, SMZ-400 mg)	4.00	Vitamins B1 + B6 + B12 Tablet	3.50

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide (not yet available in Mercury Drug)
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop. Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, Metro Manila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1620, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1633
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE: www.DLI-Generics.com
DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

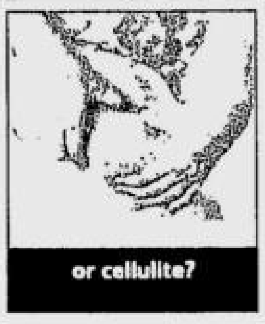
LOVELY LEGS PROMO
Get 20% OFF on treatment programmes + 1 FREE NDS TREATMENT upon enrollment from March 19 - 21, 2001 only!
Get Slimmer, Sexier Legs!



Got big, heavy thighs and saddle bags...



the heavy-legs look...



or cellulite?

At Marie-France, your legs can be so much slimmer and sexier with Nulegs Detoxitrim System (NDS). It is a relaxing, non-invasive, computer-controlled treatment that will effectively reduce excess fat in your lower torso and legs. Your saddlebag hips, heavy thighs and thick legs will have a slimmer, shapelier look that's worth flaunting!

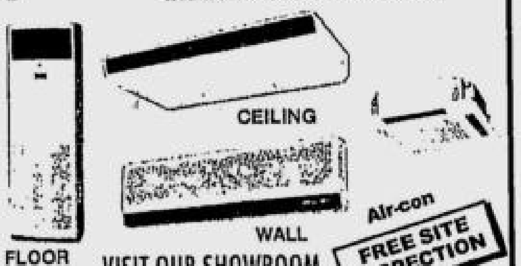
With NDS, you'll soon have slimmer and sexier legs! Call Marie-France and avail of this easy slimming offer now!

Uncover Your Curves
Marie France Bodyline International®
NOW OPEN
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Consultations are done in private and kept confidential. All treatments are done in hygienic and private cubicles and handled professionally by trained nurses with the medical supervision of our doctors.
NEW LOCATION
MAKATI 816-2563 892-7631/32 812-0472 • 812-0510 Solid Mills Bldg., Dela Rosa St.
ORTIGAS 687-1216 687-1218 638-3028 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.
QUEZON CITY 410-3723 410-3724 372-6635 • 372-6636 Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue
BINONDO 242-2187 242-2191 243-0047 • 243-0049 Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.
ALABANG 809-9619 850-4574 842-4633 • 842-6887 Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.
SHAW 534-5898 534-5877 717-0071 • 717-0072 Sunshine Square Plaza
CEBU 233-7637 233-7639 233-7641 Keppel Centre, Cebu City
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0632, Series of 2001
NO EXERCISE MACHINES • NO WORKOUT CLASSES • NO PILLS OR INJECTIONS • NO HUNGER PAINS • NO MEDICATIONS • NO SURGERY

FREE CHECK-UP ESTIMATE

ISLAS MERCANTILE
1534 P. GUEVARRA ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA
FAX NO.: 731-1258
TELS.: 711-8690 • 711-9182 • 338-5776
INSTALLER • CONTRACTOR

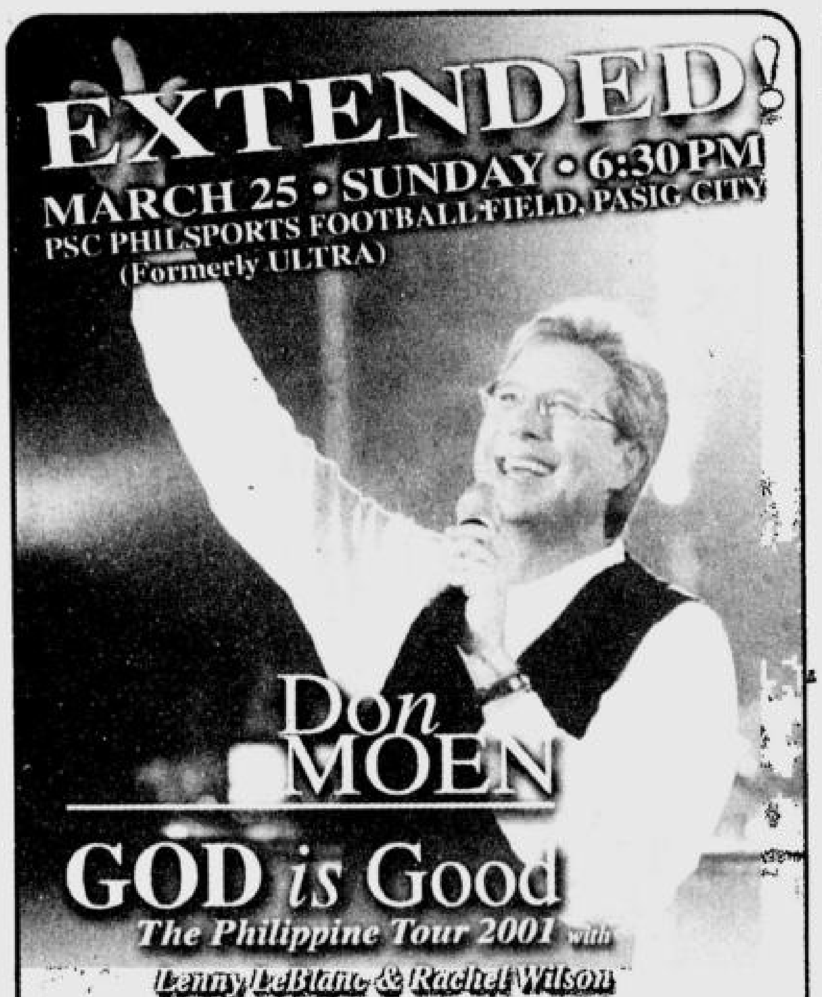
MITSUBISHI
DAIKIN
ALENAIRE
Koppel
Carrier
UNI-AIR



Air-con FREE SITE INSPECTION

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
INSTALLMENT THRU CREDIT CARDS, BPI, UNICARD, DINERS, VISA RCBC

SALES • REPAIRS • SERVICE


EXTENDED!
MARCH 25 • SUNDAY • 6:30PM
PSC PHILSPORTS FOOTBALL FIELD, PASIG CITY
(Formerly ULTRA)
Don MOEN
GOD is Good
The Philippine Tour 2001 with
Lenny LeBlanc & Rachel Wilson

TICKETS AT POPULAR PRICES!
P100 • P200 • P300

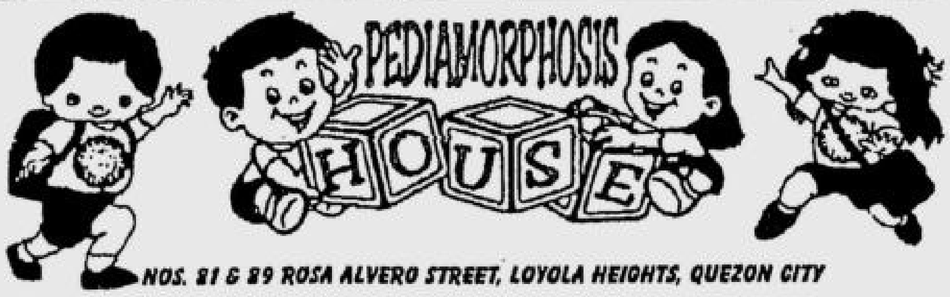
AVAILABLE AT
MAXMEDIA TICKETING OFFICE
813-8999
893-7737

TICKETNET
CALL 911-5555

All-New DON MOEN CD's and Cassettes: *"I Will Sing"*, *"Mercy Seat"*, and *"En Tu Presencia"* now available at Praise, Inc. and your favorite record bars.

Presented by
NORTHWEST AIRLINES
International carrier of the Don Moen entourage

With the support of our media partners
RPN
viva
DZRV 846
MAGIC 89.9
103.5 K-Lite



NOS. 81 & 89 ROSA ALVERO STREET, LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY
a preschool for boys and girls (ages 2-1/2 to 6-1/2 years)

NURSERY • KINDERGARTEN • PREP
Personalized Approach/Computer Assisted
NOW ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS/ENROLLMENT for SY 2001-2002
NO ENTRANCE EXAMS -- FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Pediahouse prepares students for entrance to schools like Kostka Grade School, Ateneo Grade School, La Salle Grade School, Xavier Grade School, Poveda Grade School, Miriam Grade School and other grade schools of similarly high standards and category.

ANITA L. RILLORAZA, M.A.
Principal
25 years with the Ateneo Grade School
Former Assistant Headmaster for Primary
11 years Member of the AGS Board of Admissions

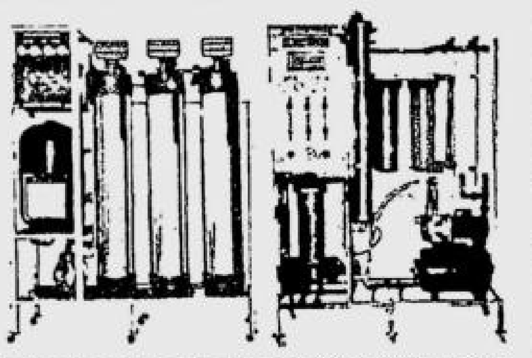
REMEDIOS S. EUSEBIO, M.A.
Vice-Principal
25 years with the Ateneo Grade School
Former Grade Level Coordinator / Head Teacher
11 years Member of the AGS Board of Admissions

Business Office: No. 289 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. PLDT 426-0334 / 426-0276 / 426-4911 & 13
Bayan Tel 433-3561 / 433-3562

It takes only 1 PACKAGE from a reliable company to start a successful water refilling business!

The NEW IMPROVED
ULTIMA PLUS
Mega Series

The All New Series that incorporate the important components of a Water Refilling Station along side the 16-Stage Water Purification Equipment at the price of a standard equipment package:



THE ALL NEW ALL-IN-ONE PACKAGE
FTH3H-C
WR5G

☆ Hydro Fill FTH3H-C
Manual Filler Table with Built-in Bottle Capper
- Three (3) manual fill heads with adaptor for pet bottles
- Can be easily connected to your Ultima Plus Mega Skid
- High-grade all stainless steel frame on castors with locks

☆ Hydra Plus WR5G
Automatic Bottle Washer & Rinser
- High-pressure injection nozzle for effective bottle cleaning
- Transparent casing for rinsing visualization

☆ Clean Room UVL
ULTRA VIOLET LAMP
Provides strong UV rays that effectively eliminates airborne particles, mold and bacteria, thus providing a safe and sanitized interiors.

ATT-Aqua Treatment Technology supports the Supplemental Implementing Rules and Regulations, Chapter II "Water Supply" of the Code of the Phils (P.D 856) on Water Refilling Stations

ATT-AQUA TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, INC.
"THE WATER TREATMENT SPECIALIST"
Head Office 398 A. Bonifacio, San Jose, Q.C 1115
Direct Lines (02) 366-8805 / 363-0711 FAX (02) 363-0714
E-mail aquatech@pworld.net.ph
AN AFFILIATE OF ATT GROUP OF COMPANIES

QUEZON CITY 349 A. Bonifacio Ave., cor Mauban St., San Jose, Quezon City 1115 TEL # (02) 365-6149 FAX # 367-7131
LAS PIÑAS Rm 304 Aurora Arcade Bldg., Real St., Almanza, Las Piñas 1750 TEL # (02) 806-0333 FAX # 800-8977
CEBU BRANCH Units 3 & 4, A & F Bldg., AC Cortes Ave., Mandaue City, Cebu 6014 TEL # (032) 344-6482 FAX # 344-6470
DAVAO BRANCH Units 8 9 & 10, L & A Bldg., Lapu-Lapu St., Agdao District, Davao City 8000 TEL # (082) 223-6501 FAX # 222-6504

Quick count 'winner' known today

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WHETHER it's the National Movement for Free Elections or the National Press Club which will be authorized to conduct a quick count in the May 14 elections will be known today.

The Commission on Elections yesterday said it was possible the NPC and Namfrel would be allowed to hold a joint quick count.

Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo, however, said the two groups had claimed their respective systems were incompatible.

Both the Namfrel and the NPC had also accused each other of catering to dubious financiers.

But Benipayo has insisted that there shall be an independent quick count in the May elections, as mandated under Republic Act 8173, a law which grants all citizens' arms equal opportunity to be accredited by the Comelec.

"Otherwise, what shall we do with the sixth copy of the election return?" Benipayo said.

Both the NPC and Namfrel, in marathon hearings last month, had claimed that their quick-count systems were fraud-proof and could show advance results within hours after the closing of the elections. The two groups also claimed to have a nationwide network of volunteers.

Namfrel has based its strength on its 15-year experience and a network of 300,000 volunteers.

The NPC, on the other hand, has offered to tap its members and media affiliates that will be backed by an Internet-based quick count system developed by Polistrat, a private management consultancy firm led by Jose "Joey" Leviste, a top official of the trade and industry ministry during the Marcos administration.

Factionalism taking toll on AFP brass

BY CARLITO PABLO

HIGH-RANKING military officers are quitting one after another, reportedly in disgust over the factionalism tearing the Armed Forces.

Air Force Deputy Chief Maj. Gen. Adelberto Yap has opted for early retirement, effective March 15, or five months before his mandatory retirement in August.

Faced with the prospect of being placed in the freezer, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim is also leaving earlier than his scheduled retirement in November.

Controversial Marine Lt. Gen. Eduardo Espinosa, the officer who had reportedly drawn up a plan for a military breakaway from the crisis-torn Estrada administration early this year, is also opting to retire early.

"It's so sordid. There are so many intrigues. Everybody is destroying everybody," a military officer, who asked not to be named, said in Taglish.

The concerned officers answered guardedly when asked why they decided to bow out earlier than they were supposed to.

"Everyone makes his own individual decision with respect to his career," said Yap.

Calimlim said he wanted to "(give) room for junior officers to rise through the ladder."

He said his departure would give newly installed AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva "a free hand to reorganize the military."

An aide of Espinosa said the Marine general simply wanted to vacate his three-star rank so that the recently installed Navy chief, Rear Adm. Victorino Hingco, would get it.

Yap, who was one of the officers said to have been recruited by Espinosa for the planned military breakaway, has accepted a Malacañang offer of an assistant secretary post at the Department of Transportation and Communication where he will head the Air Transportation Office. He is to formally take over the ATO today.

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE
Manila

Office of the Civil Registrar General

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- For the past two months, we had over 14,000 applicants per day at the National Statistics Office (NSO) branches at East Avenue and EDSA, for applications and releasing of civil registry documents (birth, marriage, and death), respectively. For the first week of March, we averaged 14,600 applications in a day. Last December, there were only 9,000 applicants per day.
- The Microfilm Reader Printer machines which the NSO use in processing 80 percent of these requests work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Recently, 8 out of 28 of the machines broke down.
- These have resulted into delays in the release of the documents requested.
- Please be informed that applications for Birth, Marriage, and Death Certificates that are scheduled for release on March 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2001, are advised to return instead on March 21, 22, 23, 26, and 27, 2001, respectively.

Original Date of Release:	March 19	March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23
Revised Date of Release:	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24	March 25

- Also, please be informed that effective March 13, 2001, Tuesday, the schedule of release of civil registry documents (birth, marriage and death) will be adjusted from nine (9) working days to at least fourteen (14) working days. Hence, applications received on March 13 will be released on April 2, 2001; applications on March 14 will be released on April 3, 2001, and so on.
- Further, we are constrained to implement a daily cut-off of 6,200 applications that can be handled by our working machines.
- To address these problems, the NSO is in the process of acquiring an additional ten (10) Microfilm Reader Printers to hasten the processing of your requests.
- Meanwhile, the 12-year computerization project of the NSO in partnership with Unisys called the Civil Registry System – Information Technology Project (CRS-ITP), which primarily aims at providing a "while-you-wait" processing of requested documents, will start partial implementation this coming June 2001.
- We would like to thank the public for their patience and understanding during this time.

TOMAS P. AFRICA
Administrator and Civil Registrar General

Now in the Philippines!

TEST OF ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION
(TOEIC)

Don't take chances!
- Measure the English proficiency of your applicants for assignment in the workplace where English language is a medium
- Determine your English proficiency and gauge your English communication readiness or that of your students / employees

TOEIC is developed by Educational Testing Service, the same developer of TOEFL, TWE and TSE. It is available on demand -- no need to wait for a pre-determined testing session. Results are available in 48 hours. It is recognized as a worldwide standard of English proficiency assessment. And is reasonably priced.

Website: www.toeic.com

Contact:
HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems
3rd flr., AB Sandoval Bldg., Oranbo Drive
cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 636-6964; 633-7734
E-mail: hermelo@info.com.ph
(Philippine agent of International Communications, Inc., Japan)

Soon off the Press

KNOW YOUR INCOME TAX
(Guide for Preparation of Income Tax Returns for Individuals)

Edited by:
Victor A. Deoferio, Jr.
Victorino C. Mamalateo

Inquire at:
Info Solutions Research Center
U.P. Campus, Diliman, Q.C.
925-7414 · 434-7417

Best Value Tours
WORLDWIDE HOLIDAY PACKAGES

Hongkong	Bangkok	Singapore
4 DAYS/3NIGHTS With Airfare, City tour, breakfast in hotel & transfers From US$371	4 DAYS/3NIGHTS With Airfare, City tour, breakfast in hotel & transfers From US$327	4 DAYS/3NIGHTS With Airfare, City tour, transfers & buffet breakfast From US$392
Australia	**Europe & Britain**	**United States**
SYDNEY, BRISBANE, PERTH, GOLD COAST, MELBOURNE 4 DAYS/3NIGHTS From US$687	LONDON, SCOTLAND, BELGIUM, FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND, RUSSIA & MORE (Land Arrangements) From US$299	ALASKA, CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, LAS VEGAS & MORE (Land Arrangements) From US$779

PLUS a lot more destinations to explore!
New Zealand, South Africa, South America, Canada, Hawaii, Israel, Egypt, Turkey & Morocco....

For more information, please call the baron travel corporation at tel. #817-49-26 locals 202/205 and look for Sheila or Michael or fax your inquiries to #819-29-93.

Masaya ka ba sa Iyong trabaho?

There's a career in here.

JOB MARKET

www.inquirer.net/jobmarket

CONTROL YOUR BUSINESS

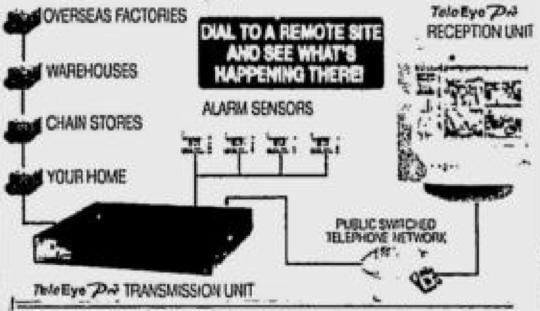
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT THERE!...WITH..

TeleEye Pro™

AUTHORIZED PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTOR

APPLICATIONS:

- Supervising operations of overseas or provincial factories and warehouses.
- Keeping track of chain stores in different locations simultaneously.
- Enhancing operations management, remote security and home safety.
- Monitoring distant public facilities.
- Checking situation in unmanned site and restricted zones.


OVERSEAS FACTORIES
WAREHOUSES
CHAIN STORES
YOUR HOME
DIAL TO A REMOTE SITE AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING THERE!
ALARM SENSORS
TeleEye Pro RECEPTION UNIT
PUBLIC SWITCHED TELEPHONE NETWORK
TeleEye Pro TRANSMISSION UNIT

Microserve Computers, Co

Metro Manila & Provincial dealer inquiries also welcome

Tels.: 365 - 1446 / 361-8267 / 361-1654 / 365 - 0897
E-mail: fcoling@sfi.com.ph • Fax: 365 - 1446
291- H Del Monte Ave Quezon City Philippines

---

6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS
PARIS EURODISNEY TOUR
WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
DEPARTURE
LOURDES EXT AVAILABLE

12 DAYS BEIJING XIAN SHANGHAI HANGZHOU GUILIN XIAMEN & MORE MAGNIFICENT CHINA TOURS ON WEEKLY DEPARTURE

16 DAYS EUROPEAN HIGHLIGHTS
LONDON BELGIUM HOLLAND
GERMANY AUSTRIA ITALY
VATICAN CITY SWITZERLAND FRANCE
WEEKLY DEPARTURE

11 DAYS CALIFORNIA MAGIC
LOS ANGELES ANAHEIM SAN DIEGO
BARSTOW LAS VEGAS SAN FRANCISCO
3/31 4/5 4/15 4/25 5/5 5/15 5/25

PLEASURE TRIP TO ORLANDO DISNEYLAND LAS VEGAS, HONGKONG SINGAPORE, TAIPEI, KOREA, BANGKOK, BALI AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & INTERNATIONAL CRUISES ON EASY BUDGET

7 DAYS TOKYO HAKONE MT FUJI
TOYOHASHI NARA KYOTO OSAKA TOKYO

LOCAL TOURS AVAILABLE

HOLYLAND PILGRIMAGE ON REQUEST

GREAT WALL
INT'L TRAVEL INC.
GROUND FLOOR, STATE CENTRE
333 JUAN LUNA ST.
BINONDO, MLA

2420725-2422526
2422221-2422214
2422522 FAX 2422529
E-MAIL
GREATWALL@ABACUS.COM.PH

IATA-PTAA MEMBER
LICENSE NO
TO 168-2000

China Panorama

A	Yangize River Cruise Tour 5 - 16 Days
B	Beijing 4 - 7 Days
C1A	Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Guangzhou 6 - 9 Days
C1B	Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guilin 5 - 9 Days
C1C	Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Guilin 6 - 9 Days
C2	Hangzhou, Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Guilin 8 - 12 Days
C4	Southwesr China Shangri-la 7 - 10 Days
C9A	Mystical TIBET 7 Days
C10	SILK ROAD 11- 14 Days
G2	Shenzhen, GuangDong, Zhuhai, Macau 6 - 8 Days
H1-4	Shanghai Holiday 3 - 6 Days

DOT T0#153-00

Accept hotel booking for ***China, Hong Kong, Macau***

PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.
479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Mla.
Tels.: 242-2585 Trunk line
Fax . 242-2650 ; 242-2652
http://www.pandatour.com

IATA PTAA

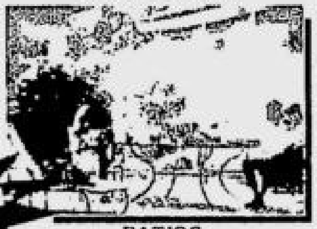
China Panorama 華夏博覽

OUTDOOR COOLING SYSTEMS

Cools Outdoor Temperatures up to 30° F.

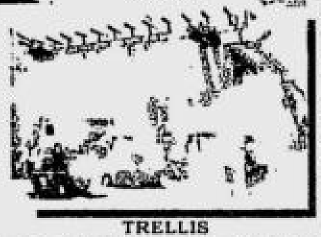
Enjoy a very cool and refreshing super fine mist without getting wet.

COOL MIST FAN


PATIOS

GAZEBOS

TRULY AIRCONDITION-LIKE FEELING!


TRELLIS

For inquiries & free estimates, call now

COOL MIST INTERNATIONAL
Tel. Nos.: 714-1559 / 716-6161 Fax: 416-4225

SALES - RENTALS
SERVICES AVAILABLE

PILGRIMAGE 2001

HOLYWEEK IN HOLYLAND

Tour Price $ 1,890.00
with JORDAN AND EGYPT
Departure: April 7, 2001

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE EUROPE

Tour Price $ 2,835.00
ROME-PARIS-LOURDES-FATIMA & MORE
Departure : Apr 23, 30 & May 07 & May 16

HOLYLAND & EUROPE

Tour Price $ 3,690.00
Departure: Apr 19, 2001

HOLYLAND-JORDAN-EGYPT

Tour Price $ USD 1,890
Departure: Apr 28, May 19, 2001

"All groups with Group Chaplain & Tour Leader"

For further information Pls Contact:
Your Favorite Travel Agency or

TRAVELPLAN INC.
Ms. Elvie Ms. Jasmine
Tel # 5254564/5232157/5238290 to 94 Fax # 5216403/5216680
E-mail address: tvplan@skyinet.net

ELECTION BREAKTHROUGH!

Why Kolin power amplifiers are sought after during elections

Announcing the *only* public address system power amplifier that gives you:

- Powerful clear sound quality so that your constituents will hear and listen to what you say
- Special options that give you flexibility so that you can be heard on stage or on the road
- It's incredibly dependable we guarantee it will help you even with your re-elections
- Best of all it's affordable and easy to use

It's available nationwide, so hurry and get it from your favorite electronics dealer or call 743-6026 for the list of dealers near you! Get all the scoop. Visit our website at www.kolin.com.ph now!

Available from 30W to 400W output, 220VAC and 12V or 24VDC supply and also in models with echo effect

The choice of winners

The quality you call in.

KOLIN ELECTRONICS

Kolin Electronics Co., Inc. http://www.kolin.com.ph info@kolin.com.ph

---

For the KUMON child, it's non-stop learning, lifelong fun!

KUMON MATH's 23 study levels start with Counting Numbers; then move on to the four basic calculations; then gradually tackle the higher Math subjects like Differential and Integral Calculus, Statistics, and so on.

In KUMON READING's 16 study levels, the journey begins with Word Building; then goes on to Sentence Building, Paragraph Development, Summary and Critical Reading.

Whether enrolled in Math or Reading, the KUMON child starts at a "just-right" study level and proceeds according to his pace and inclination.

During the fifteen to thirty minutes of focused study required of him daily, he competes only with himself as he strives to better his own performance.

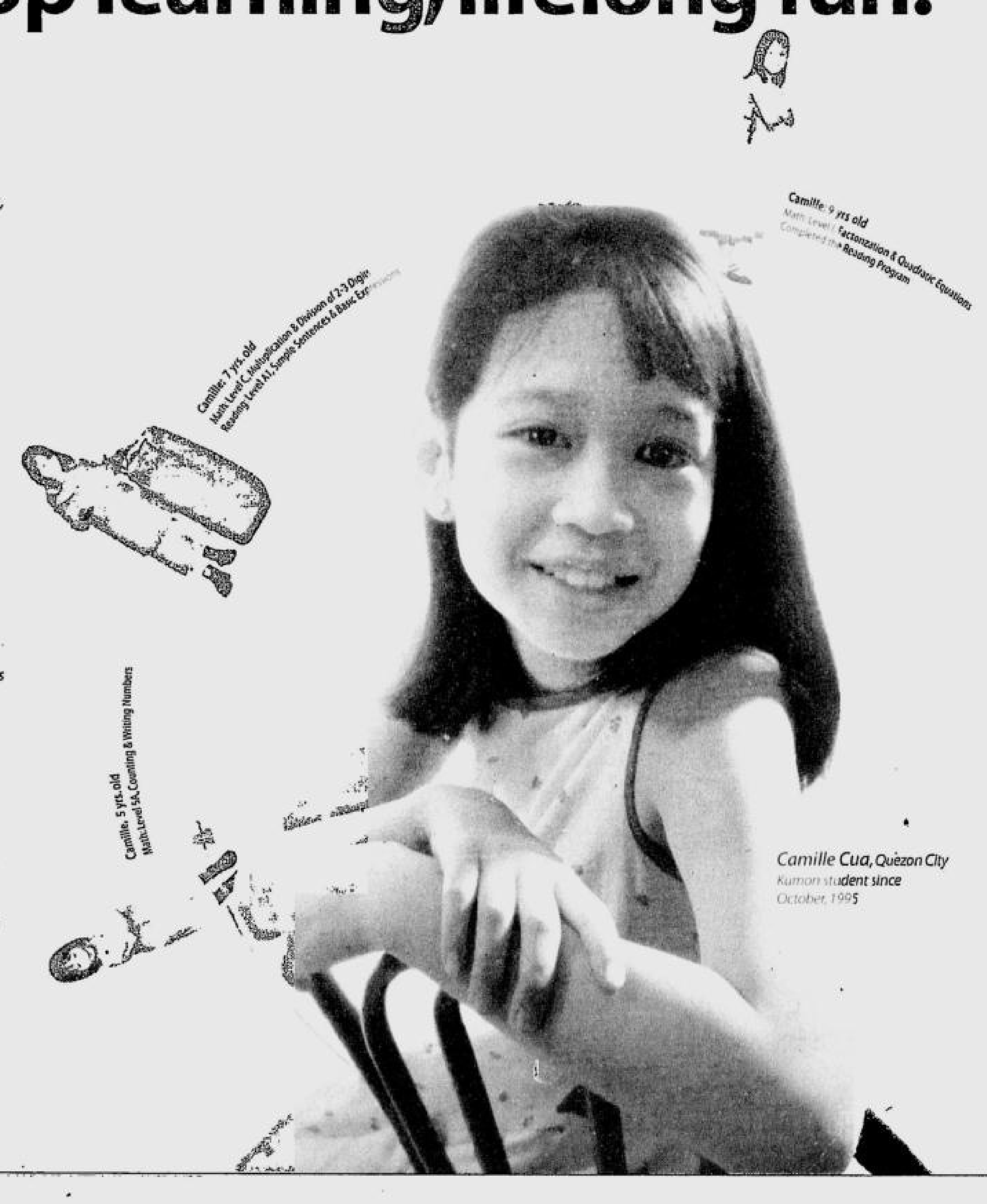
And since 100% is the only acceptable score for his Math or Reading exercises, he achieves mastery and gains tremendous self-confidence in the process!

KUMON paves the way for your child's long-term success.

Building the necessary skills and aptitude. Molding a winning, disciplined attitude.

Both are keys to your child's future success and happiness. And both take time and demand a sustained commitment from all parties concerned: parents, child, and KUMON.

We're ready, if you are. Call or visit the nearest KUMON Learning Center today and find out more about this after-school supplementary program that has helped over 2.6 million students worldwide!


Camille, 9 yrs old
Math Level I, Factorization & Quadratic Equations
Completed the Reading Program
Camille, 7 yrs. old
Math Level C, Multiplication & Division of 2-3 Digits
Reading Level A1, Simple Sentences & Basic Expressions
Camille, 5 yrs. old
Math Level 5A, Counting & Writing Numbers

Camille Cua, Quezon City
Kumon student since October, 1995

Participating Kumon Centers in the Philippines

CALOOCAN Caloocan Study Center 362-2354 • LAS PIÑAS BF Resort Village 874-6992 • Pilar Village 801-5916 MAKATI Sacred Heart School - Sabio 810-8506 • Metro Manila Center San Lorenzo Village 817-9518 • Sacred Heart School - Forbes Park 840-5493 • Allons Enfants Study Center, Magallanes Village 852-7934 • Early Achievers Learning Center, Bel Air 895-7881 • Sacred Heart School Dela Rosa 810-8997 • Mind Quest Center, Palma St. 896-6523 • Kamagong Center, San Antonio Village 853-0141 MALABON Sacred Heart School Malabon 447-[illegible] MANDALUYONG Plainview Center 532-0215 MANILA Pre[illegible] Quirino Avenue 524-1656 • Happy Achievers Center, San Miguel 736-1292 • Malate Learning Center, Vito Cruz 526-1804 loc 15 MARIKINA Marikina Angels' Learning Center, Marikina Heights 940-4891 • Start Right Center, A. Tuazon Avenue 645-8365 MUNTINLUPA Alabang Hills Center 809-4548 • The Learning Child, Ayala-Alabang Village 809-0187 PARAÑAQUE Merville Learning Center 822-3959 • BF Homes Center 826-0250 • Doña Soledad Center 820-2582 • United Hills Center 823-2726 PASIG Valle Verde 1 Center 671-9121 • East Kapitolyo Learning Center 634-2748 • Manggahan Center 916-8310 • C. Raymundo Center 643-4116 PATEROS Pateros Learning Center 542-4373 SAN JUAN Greenhills Christian Study Center 722-9415 • Little School at Pasadena [illegible] VALENZUELA Valenzuela Center 291-2951 QUEZON CITY The Philippine Montessori Center, White Plains 911-4813 • Creative Beginners Center, Greenmeadows 635-7374 • Xavierville Center 426-0007 • Early Achievers' Learning Center, Sgt. Rivera 365-4684 • Visayas Avenue Center 927-5809 • Scout Area Center 951-3682 • Don Antonio Heights Center, Commonwealth 931-4891 • Happy Valley Learning Center, Cubao 415-9777 • Counting Bee Learning Center, Project [illegible] 433-9265 • Early Steps Center, New Manila 724-3526 • Ayala Heights Center, Celebrity Sports Plaza 932-8757 • D. Tuazon (Ma. Clara) Center 415-7357 • Project 8 Center 922-0169 • Fairview Center 417-5229 • J. P. Rizal Center, Project 4 911-0765 • Novaliches Center 418-6379 BACOLOD CITY Sacred Heart School-Bacolod, Capitol Subd. (034)433-3851 • A Child's Place, Capitol Subd. (034)433-6440 BAGUIO Baguio Study Center (074)442-8682 BATANGAS Stonyhurst School, Batangas City (043)723-3595 • St. Joseph School, Lipa City (043)756-2173 BULACAN Sta. Maria Center (044)641-1813 • Meycauayan Center (044)641-1813 CAVITE Havilah Center, Cavite City (046)431-6927 • Ianus Center, I-Bank Bldg. (046)471-7944 CEBU Global Village, Ayala Center (032)232-4333 DAVAO GCL Building Center, E. Quirino Ave (082)221-2058 ILIGAN Iligan Learning Center (063)223-0186 ILOILO Iloilo Learning Center (033)337-9527 LAGUNA San Pablo City Center (049)562-1554 • Morning Star Montessori-Calamba (049)545-2597 • Los Baños Learning Center (049)536-2091 • San Pedro Learning Center, Pacita Complex 869-1713 OLONGAPO Olongapo City Center (047)223-2709 QUEZON Lucena Study Center (042)710-7158 RIZAL The Little Farm House Center, Beverly Hills Subd. 658-3489 • Caterpillar Studio of Arts, Ortigas Avenue Extension 660-5990 • Antipolo Center, ML Quezon Extension 644-0943 • Village East Center, Cainta 722-9413

KUMON PHILIPPINES, INC.

developing the potential of each individual

19/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: (632)885-0226 to 29 Fax: (632)885-0251
E-mail Address: inquiries@kumon.com.ph
Website: www.kumon.com.ph

The real issue is justice for the people

(From page A1)

while one of the opposition senatorial candidates, former Executive Secretary Edgardo Angara, has called for a substantive debate in the campaign and a cessation of the "hate" campaign against Estrada, his colleagues are heating up the hate campaign against the rich.

One can't find a more improbable crew intensifying the pitch against the rich and themselves posing as the benefactors of the poor than, for example, Jamby Madrigal of the Madrigal landed oligarchy of Alabang and Makati;

Juan Ponce Enrile, whose business empire is seated in Makati; Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a shrill *arriviste* springing from the middle class of La Paz, Iloilo who plasters her entire body with academic certificates from all over the world, like a traveler whose suitcase is covered by touristic stickers;

Or former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, whose credentials for claiming an elected office lie not in his love for the poor but on his controversial record as a law enforcer.

We are forced to ask: Is there any reelectionist senator in the Puwersa ng Masa ticket who has introduced any social legislation that has directly transferred wealth from the rich and the predatory official to the poor?

PINUWERSA ang MASA COALITION (PnM)
PABIL BOTO
KAPWA KO PINAPATAY KO
HWAG TULARAN

ANAKBAYAN members stage a mock campaign rally against the "Pinuwersa ng Masa Coalition" at the Nepa-Q Mart in Quezon City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Insult to intelligence

When the poor hear these people inciting them against the rich, they must have an inkling that their intelligence is being insulted or they are being set up again to prop up the heirs of Estrada after he had betrayed them.

Most of us, after a considerable volume of evidence has been produced, by now know that the foremost beneficiary of Estrada's plunder was himself and his extended families, and the poor were fed only the crumbs from Estrada's table. International studies, including those from the World Bank, have demonstrated that the poor are the worst victims of corruption, which is an insidious form of redistribution of wealth extracted through the use of state power.

Estrada's record in alleviating poverty is dismal. A study by a University of the Philippines academic specializing in poverty, Dr. Arsenio Balisacan, finds that "despite the resounding rhetoric for the war on poverty, the Estrada administration failed to lower poverty incidence to its targets."

Estrada had declared he would reduce poverty incidence to 20 percent by the end of his term. By the end of 2000, Balisacan finds, "best estimates"—based even on the highly unlikely situation that changes in aggregate income from 1998 to 2000 was neutral by distribution—"suggest that poverty incidence could have fallen by at most one percentage point between 1997 and 2000."

The study says that "to be sure, poverty incidence could have increased to 33 percent in 1998 when per-capita income declined by 2.6 percent, owing to a combination of the El Niño phenomenon and the Asian crisis. The drought that year caused agricultural output to contract by 6.7 percent.

"Poverty incidence could have fallen to 31 percent, following a recovery, albeit minimal, of economic growth in 1999 and 2000. But since population continued to increase at 2.1 percent a year, the number of poor people could have increased from 27.2 million in 1997 to 28.2 million in 2000."

Recruitment field

The swelling numbers of the poor now serve as the recruitment field of the not-so-poor Estrada heirs who are taking advantage of the poverty and ignorance of the poor to revive Estrada's fraudulent "*Erap para sa masa*" posture and to use it as a vehicle to win Senate seats.

By reviving the *masa* issue, Estrada's heirs have unwittingly projected him as the issue in the senatorial race, i.e., the failure of his war on poverty and his corruption, now the subject of justice department investigation preparatory to filing plunder charges with the Office of the Ombudsman.

The opposition bewails the "hate campaign" fostered by the administration against Estrada, referring to the discovery of further evidence of corruption and plunder by the justice department and the willingness of many of his former cronies, like Jaime Dichaves and Mark Jimenez.

Jimenez, in particular, has stated in affidavits that Estrada ripped off millions of pesos in commissions from the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. takeover and other transactions that the businessman brokered.

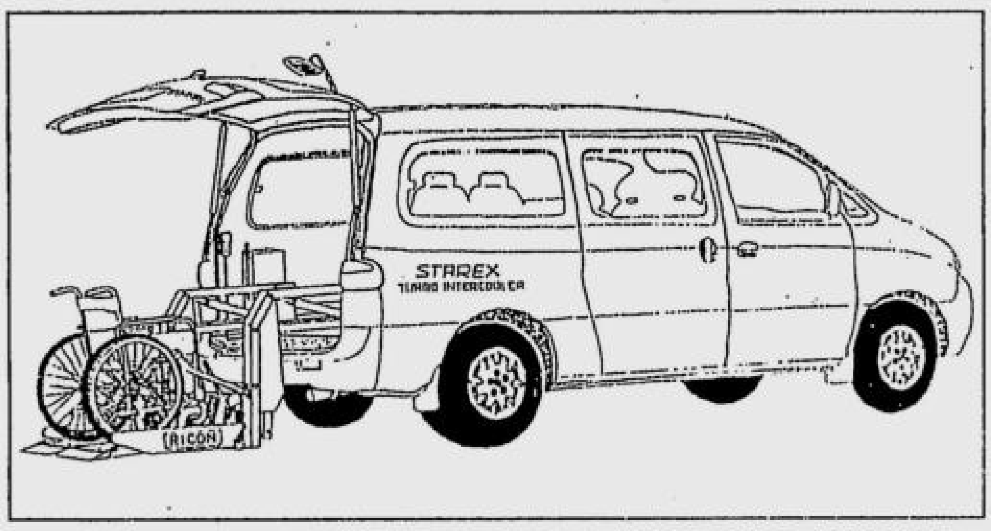
Justice for the people

The build-up of evidence and the determination of the justice department to file plunder charges against Estrada are not in pursuit of a "hate" campaign. They are in pursuit of justice for the people who have been defrauded by Estrada through the illegal extraction of wealth, using the powers of the state, for personal gain. If the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo falters in its resolve to file the plunder cases, either because it fears a public backlash for the "underdog" hitting the People Power Coalition senatorial ticket or because of lack of political will, it will play into the hands of the opposition ticket.

The heirs of Estrada are tapping the converted in their rich-versus-poor campaign and are playing the underdog theme. If the administration does not file the cases before the elections, it would face a backlash from the ranks of its converted—the civil society constituency that helped install Ms Macapagal to power and that is now pressing her to secure justice by sending Estrada to jail.

The administration should not expect the Estrada die-hards among the poor to change their mind. Whether charges are filed or not, they will remain loyal to Estrada, and this is the function of poverty which the Puwersa ng Masa is shamelessly exploiting. On the other hand, Ms Macapagal is certain to lose its civil society constituency if it flags in its effort to send Estrada to jail. She has reached a point of no return, as far as filing the plunder charges is concerned.

The real issue in this campaign is not the poor. It is the capacity of this administration to obtain justice for the people against those who have abused power.



ACCESSIBILITY SOLUTION

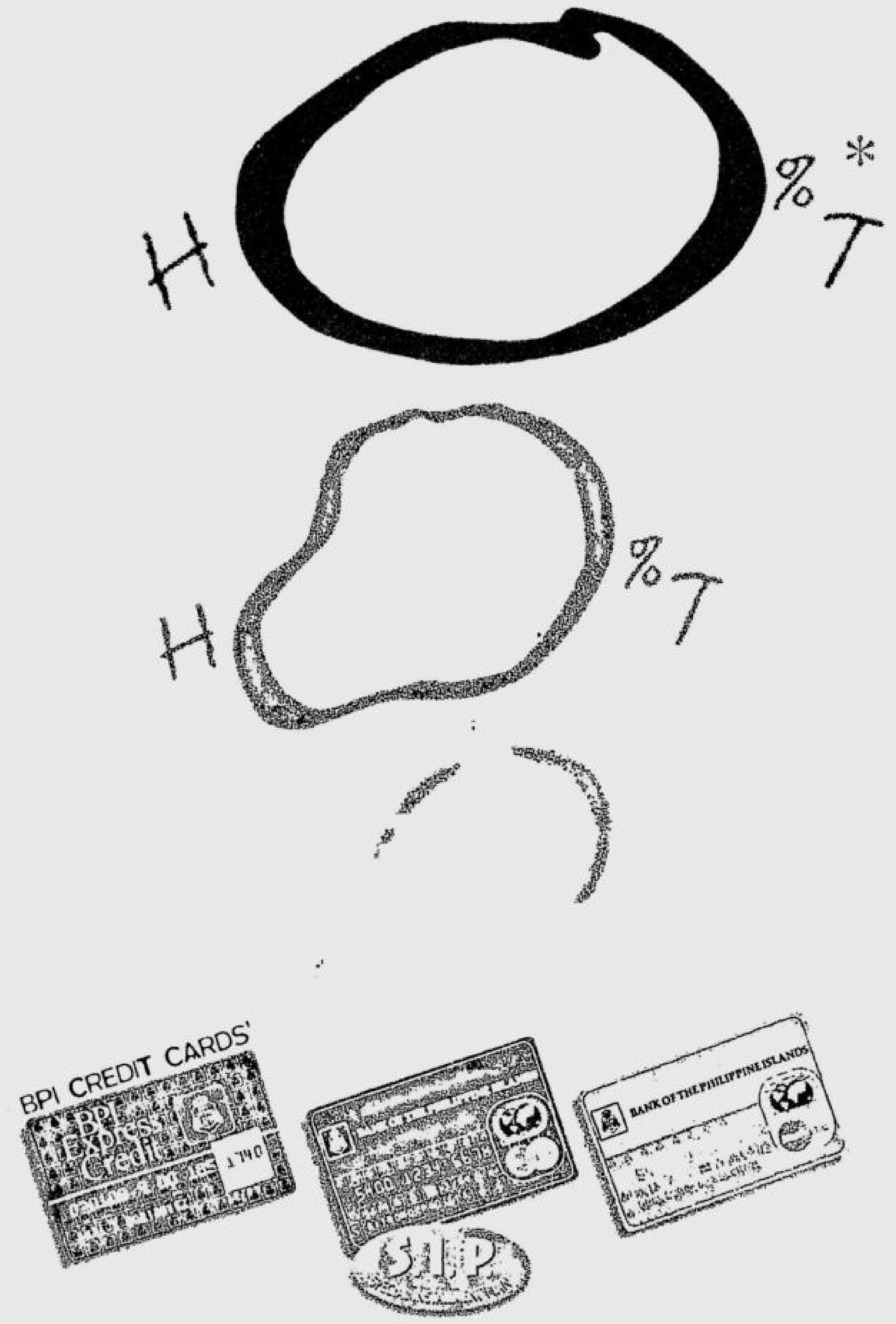
LIFT FOR HANDICAPPED FOR VANS : STAREX, HI-ACE, MBIOO, FORD, ETC.

GENERAL ELEVATOR & ESCALATOR CORP.

PASSENGER & FREIGHT • SCENIC ELEVATOR • CAR ELEVATOR • BED ELEVATOR • HYDRAULIC ELEVATOR • CONSTRUCTION ELEVATOR • DUMBWAITER • HOMELIFT • HOISTS • WINCHES • LIFTS FOR HANDICAPPED

GENERAL

NO. 3 MABOLO ST., VERDANT ACRES SUBD., PAMPLONA III, LAS PIÑAS CITY 1701
TEL. NOS.: 873-1723 · 873-1727 · 873-1744 · 873-2180
FAX NO.: (632) 842-5619 · E-mail: bf26@vasla.com



presents

Summer Daze

INSTALLMENT MADNESS
March 7-25, 2001, Glorietta

Installment rates are burning down to as low as 0%* in the hottest Installment Madness! With your BPI Credit Cards' Special Installment Plan (S.I.P.), you can choose from 3 to 24 months to pay, at the lowest installment rates! Plus-get sizzling discounts on the most explosive display of appliances, furniture, computers and more!

Now raging at the Glorietta and throughout all Metro Manila branches of participating dealers. Or catch it as it spreads to the Automatic Centre Appliance Expo 2001, New Wing Activity Center Alabang Town Center from March 16-31, 2001!

So bring your BPI Express Credit or BPI MasterCard, and get hot, hot, hot this summer!

Globe
It's all in your hands

VillMan
COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

* Zero percent interest offered on selected items and selected terms.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-0106, Series of 2001

Get your BPI Credit Card in just 5 days! Apply via Express Start in selected Express Banking Centers, and you can get your card within 5 working days.

Participating Manufacturers: Aiwa • Ambiance One • American Home • Anston • BLIMS • Canon • Concepcion-Carrier • Daewoo • Electroworld • Fisher and Paykel • GE (General Electric) • Globe Telecom • Home Cable • Home Plus • JVC • JVL International • Kolin • La Germania • LG Collins Electronics • Mitsukoshi • National/Panasonic • Philips • Pioneer • Sharp • Sony • TCA (The Computer Authority) • Villman Computer Systems Inc. • Whirlpool
Participating Dealers: Abenson • Ambassador • Ansons • Automatic Centre • SM Appliance • SOGO • Waltermart • Western Marketing

Get your career off the ground.

JOB MARKET

Now on-line at
www.jobmarket.com.ph

MD Language EXPERTS

Speech plus CONSULTANCY & DEVELOPMENT CENTER
Rm. 401-A Delta Bldg., West Ave., Q.C. • Tel. Nos.: 374-4853 / 371-3738

"Effective Communication: Tool for Global Competitiveness"

Courses Offered: LANGUAGE ARTS(LA)

- LA I. Conversational English
- LA II. Mastery of Grammar
- LA III. Speech Plus
- LA IV. Excellence in Public Speaking
- LA V. Business Writing
- LA VI. Expressive Writing
- LA VII. Broadcasting
- • Personality Development
- • Children's Courses

We accept Corporate Trainings & Private Tutorials

Start Your Own Business in 30 Days!

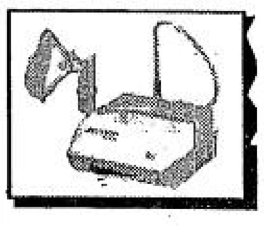
Become Your Own Boss. Fulfill Your Dreams & Your Destiny!
Start and manage your own business in 2001 and create your future.
Now Available: *Pinoybisnes* Books for Small Business
Easy to Read Bestseller, Philippine Setting. Recommended by Many Business People.

Pinoybisnes Series #1 ...
"A Smart and Practical Guide For New Entrepreneurs"
Pinoybisnes Series #2 ...
"Be Smart! Start & Manage Your Own Business"
Topics: How to Register, How to Avoid 'Bake Malugi', Mistakes to Avoid, Franchising Business, Choosing the Best Business, Over 850 New Business Ideas, How to Finance Your Business, How to Succeed, and many more!
To Order by Mail: TeleFax (02) 850-0506 / Globe/Text (0917) 454-3372
Discounts & Free Delivery for Bulk Orders (10 &up), For Students, Teachers, School Libraries, Cooperatives, Corporate Give-aways. Your Employees, etc.

Available at: National Book Stores● Powerbooks● Alemars● RareBooks

Great Gift Idea

ASTHMA NEBULIZER



- Handy & Portable
- Lightweight
- Made in Italy

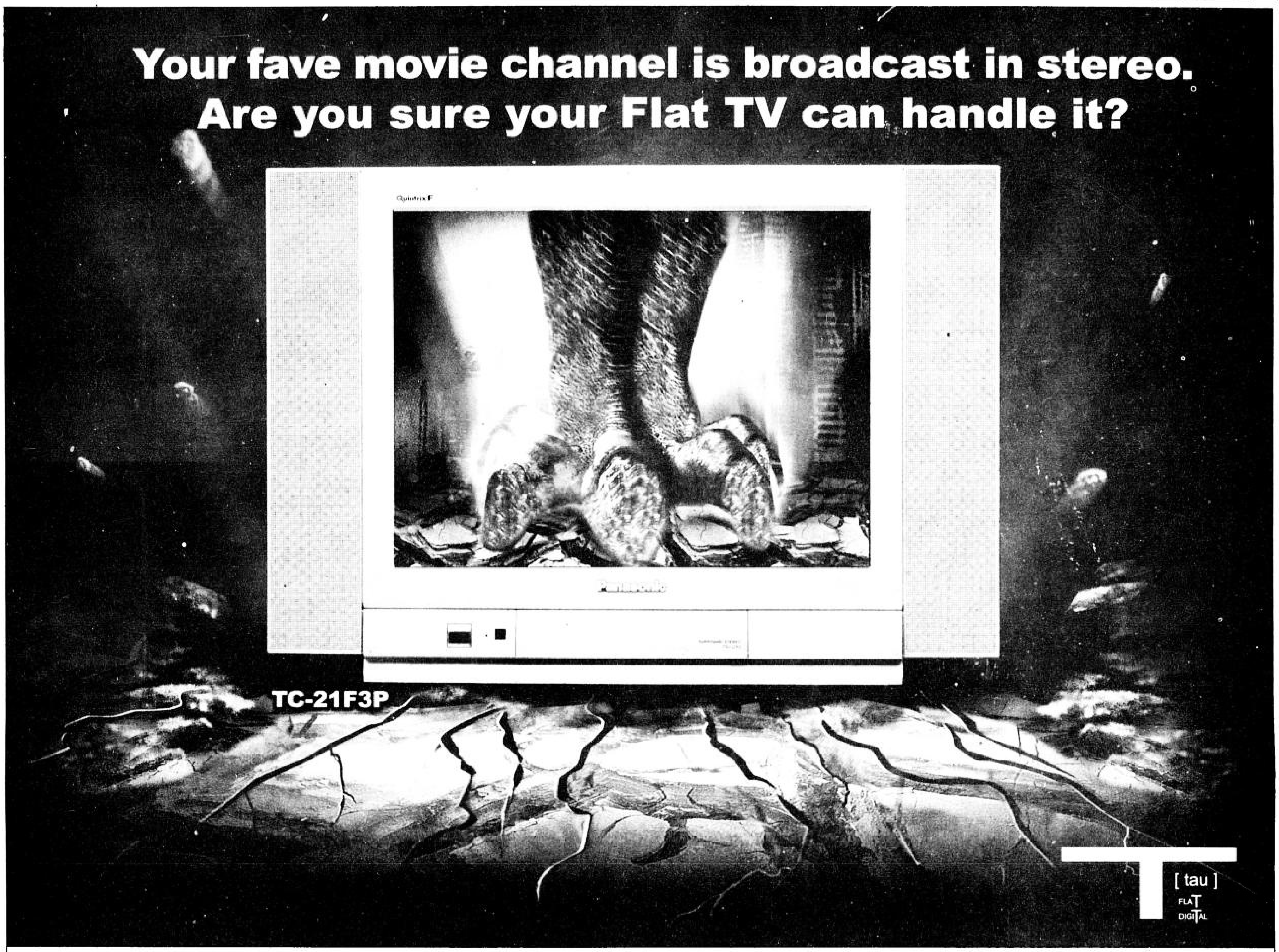
P 3,800.00 UNTIL MAR. 30, 2001

RECORD NEBULIZER
(fareastmedical.net)

SM MANILA 5TH FLOOR
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
CEBU 262 32 37
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800 40 93
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721 34 87

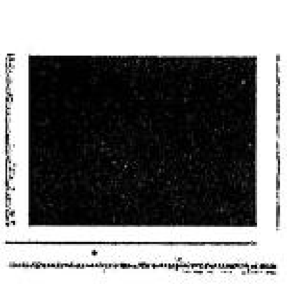


Your fave movie channel is broadcast in stereo. Are you sure your Flat TV can handle it?

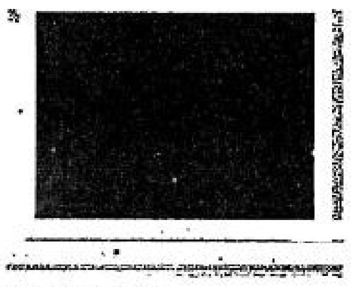
TC-21F3P

[tau]
FLAT DIGITAL

Not all Flat TVs can give you full stereo broadcast.
The Panasonic T (Tau) Flat TV can.



TC-25P22L



TC-29P22L

I like my Panasonic!
Belinda Panelo

Pounding excitement in stereo only from Panasonic T (Tau) Flat TV.
Before grabbing that real cool Flat TV, know that most cannot offer powerful sound in stereo. The Panasonic Tau Flat TV lets you enjoy the coolest Cable and TV programs in stereo. A larger chasis allows for larger speakers so you experience the pure power of sound. So when buying a Flat TV, make sure the sound doesn't leave you feeling flat. Go Panasonic Tau Flat Digital.

What's New by Panasonic

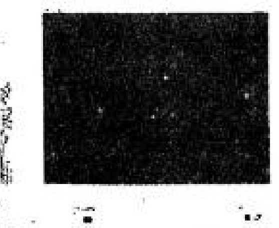
I like my Panasonic!

Cool Giveaways!

SEE STANDEES FOR MORE DETAILS.
Promo Period: Jan. 19 to Mar. 31, 2001

Redemption period: Within 60 days from end of promo period.

FREE His and Hers Sportswatch with any 315 mm x 410 mm (20") or 318 mm x 428 mm (21") Color TV



FREE Sportsbag with any VHS model

What's New by Panasonic

Present your proof of purchase to the authorized dealer representative where the Panasonic Color TV or VHS was purchased.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0040, Series of 2001

Coca-Cola GIMI CODES

Winning GimiCode March 18 ▶▶▶ 91AV

Buti na lang, swak to sa uhaw mo!

panalo ka!* ₱100,000 + bonus gimik gadget!

PROMO UNTIL APRIL 21, 2001
**You can claim your prize at the nearest Coca-Cola plant after authentication and verification of your potential winning crown.*

Per DOH-BFAD No 0978 Series of 2000 "Coca-Cola" is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company © 2001 The Coca-Cola Company

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inquirer.net

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 101
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing

DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

Star struck

EDITORIALS

IT is one thing to concede, it is another to pander.

We can understand that the People Power Coalition (PPC) candidates need to do a lot of smiling and handshaking. But we cannot understand why they have to do a lot of singing and dancing. We can understand that the PPC candidates need to bank on some star power. But we cannot understand why they have to turn their campaign into a Vilma-and-Sharon show.

At the very least, we do not know that the trick will do them good. The show-biz approach falls right into enemy territory, or plays right into Erap's game. You cannot win against Erap by the show-biz route. Though Erap hasn't had a movie in ages, he is remembered as a movie star by the public, thanks in no small way to his old movies still playing in local television. And thanks in no small way too to his silver-screen persona being kept alive by spin doctors.

He partakes of food in a meager table in a hovel in a slum area with a poor family, and he could get more votes for Loi and his other anointed than all the singing and dancing of the PPC candidates put together. The point is simple: The PPC candidates try to fight show biz with show biz, they will not win.

The comparative advantage of the PPC candidates is—people power. That is what their name says, which, for reasons only their handlers know, they seem to have forgotten already. The name of the group is People Power Coalition, yet with few exceptions nowhere have they dramatized that fact in their sorties, or their posters, or their projection to the public. One would have thought they would have cut an image of being larger-than-life, of being the defenders of the faith, of being heroes. It is not always easy to reconcile them with that thought when we see them, along with the President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, jiggling like clowns on the stage.

At the very most, we do not see how the trick will do the country good. Of course we want them to win, but not at all costs. Certainly, not at the cost of deepening the ills of the electoral process. We cannot expect them not to capitalize on the popularity of Vilma Santos and Sharon Cuneta, who are the wives of Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan respectively. But we must also wonder if that isn't reinforcing "show-biz politics," which is the new bane of Philippine elections. Maybe that will help get them into office. But the same thing will help get Rudy Fernandez and the still growing tribe of movie stars, basketball players and TV announcers, who do not seem fazed by Erap's fate, into office. It will send the message to the public that "show-biz politics" is good for the country, even the PPC is endorsing it.

Just as well, we cannot expect them not to capitalize on being in power, which has allowed them to get away with campaign violations, chief among them the putting up of posters in places the Commission on Elections has not specified. But we must also wonder if that doesn't reinforce *trapo* politics, which includes not just guns, goons and gold, but unscrupulous one-upmanship. It's one thing not to allow yourself to be disadvantaged, it is another thing to disadvantage others.

You start acting like the enemy, you will be seen as no better than the enemy. You start reinforcing the things you propose to change, you will not change what you propose to change. You cannot sell new politics with old gimmicks. That at least is what all political theory will tell you. No revolution can succeed using reactionary methods. No reform can succeed using backward methods.

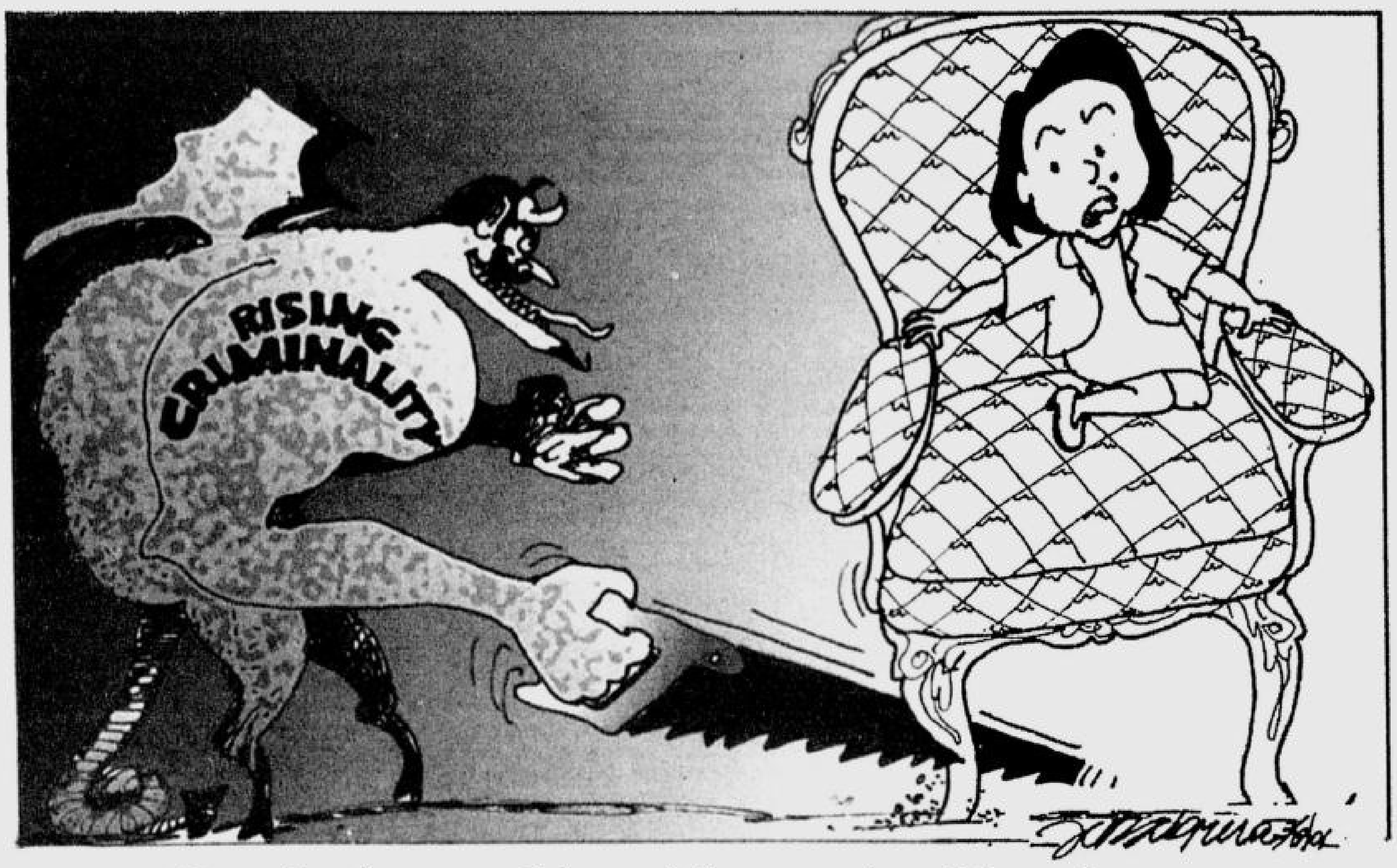
You want new politics, you need new gimmicks.

Star bucks

"IT is safe to say," says spokesperson Renato Corona, "that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is going to give the green light." That is to authorize the Presidential Commission on Good Government to seek the help of the Swiss Parliament in recovering the Marcos billions.

But of course she should. That is well past due. The evidence is there, showing both the loot and the thieves. The second ought to be prosecuted, with the same zeal as Erap. The first has to be recovered—for the country of course and not for the public officials who undertake the recovery. Which makes it essential that the process be done posthaste and with absolute transparency. That way no one can make deals at the people's expense.

Can you imagine what $13.2 billion can do for the country? And that is probably just part of the loot the Marcoses took out of the country, grown humongous with interest rates. It belongs to the people, it should go back to the people.



Don't throw this widow out of her home

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WERE government lending agencies and livelihood programs set up to help citizens or simply to squeeze money out of them and grab their properties? Is showing a healthy profit enough justification to deprive people of their homes? Shouldn't the government, which is supported by the taxes of the people, have a heart? After all, it is not a heartless private bank whose only goal is profit.

The Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) have shown that they have kind hearts. They have condoned penalties on delinquent housing loans and have come up with liberal restructuring of loans. But not Livecor. This government lending institution wants only to squeeze its borrowers, never mind if they would be thrown out into the streets.

By the way, have you heard of Livecor before? It is short for Livelihood Corporation, an obscure government office originally under the Office of the President but transferred to the Department of Agriculture during the administration of President Estrada. It was formerly called the KKK Regional Processing Center Authority created under Executive Order 866 issued by President Marcos on Jan. 11, 1983 to support the KKK (Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran) program. It was originally authorized to give loans and technical assistance to regional processing centers of primary agro-industrial products. It had an operating capital of P1 billion.

Although its original authority was to give loans and assistance to regional processing centers of agro-industrial products, it also gave loans to small livelihood projects. And this was how many hopeful entrepreneurs were trapped in the clutches of Livecor which operates more like Shylock rather than a government office created specifically to help the poor and "promote social justice." Livecor is now in the process of foreclosing scores of mortgages on homes offered as collaterals for small livelihood loans for businesses that were hit, just like the big corporations, by the Asian crisis and the local economic depression.

The case of a young housewife, Ms Andree K. Lagdameo of San Juan, is typical. She took advantage of the livelihood program and borrowed P700,000 to set up a beauty parlor, mortgaging her house and lot in San Juan as collateral.

For a while, everything went well, and she was able to pay almost P200,000 of the loan. Then tragedy struck, tragedy caused not by her but by the incompetence of the government. That was the power crisis that plunged the whole country in daily eight-hour brownouts for almost a year. Naturally, this paralyzed the operation of the beauty parlor for a greater part of the day since it depended on electricity to operate the air conditioners, lights, blow dryers, etc. Ms Lagdameo did not have the funds to buy a generator big enough to run the necessary equipment.

To make matters worse, N. Domingo, the street in front of the beauty salon, was made one-way for several months while it was being repaired. This made the parlor inaccessible to potential customers and made business difficult.

Then another tragedy struck. In 1992, Ms Lagdameo's mother and husband died within months of each other and, her daughter followed. The mother died of cancer, the husband in an accident and the daughter under still unexplained circumstances.

"After this, it was all downhill for me," Ms Lagdameo said in a letter to Livecor. "I have been through a lot of pain and difficulties in my life, more so having been a single parent through most of it, but losing a child totally shattered me and threw me off balance. It was a slow climb back and it was only (last) year that I have gone back to work and felt ready to face the realities and obligations of my life."

The reality: the loan balance of less than P600,000 has ballooned to P7 million because of the 24 percent annual interest and the 3 percent monthly penalty and another 3 percent on this penalty.

Even so, Ms Lagdameo is willing to pay the principal loan and interest but not the penalties which, any way you look at it, is onerous and usurious. She offered a 240-sq. m. residential lot in Calamba, Laguna, as partial payment.

Then Agriculture Secretary Edgardo Angara and Undersecretary Demaree J.B. Raval acted favorably on the request of Ms Lagdameo and approved a condonation of 97 percent of the penalties.

But then People Power II struck and Angara and Raval both had to go. Gerardo G. Gatus took over as officer in charge. Gatus' style is all Shylock. He overturned the previous approval and recommended foreclosure proceedings on Ms Lagdameo's home on April 24, 2001. That's barely five weeks from now.

Gatus said that under PD 1445, condonation of penalty above P10,000 must be approved by the Office of the President and any amount above that must be approved by Congress. He's right about that but can't he, out of compassion for this mother, at least hold the foreclosure proceedings in abeyance until Congress has acted on it?

Remember Mr. Gatus, "the quality of mercy is not strained..." Have mercy and compassion on Ms Lagdameo. What if you died and the same merciless decision is inflicted on your widow? How would you feel then?

You would not be more successful as an administrator if you foreclose many home mortgages. You would be more successful—and God, your superiors, and the people would look more kindly on you—if you help unlucky people like this mother.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Former PNP chief and now senatorial candidate Ping Lacson will answer the charges against him—and maybe explode a bombshell—at this morning's Kapihan sa Manila.

Mayoral candidates for Quezon City will discuss what's wrong with the city and what they're going to do about it in the second phase of the Kapihan.

Struggles

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE letter-writer expressed her profound disgust in this way. If Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Gregorio Honasan and Ping Lacson manage to win in the May elections, she would seriously consider immigrating to another country. She would have lost her faith in this one. The letter-writer was reacting to surveys that showed Enrile and Santiago hovering in the middle rungs of the "Magic 13" and Lacson and Honasan clinging to the lower ones.

The dismay, or alarm, seems widespread. Apart from the letters I've gotten expressing the same shock, I've heard the sentiment articulated in conversations everywhere. Incredible as it may seem, Enrile, Santiago, Honasan and Lacson, the first two in particular being the biggest *contrabidas* in the widely watched *telenovela* called the impeachment trial, could still end up tormenting the nation again. An anguished cry normally comes at the end of this fearful scenario: Don't we ever learn? Are we a nation of masochists? Can we ever take one step forward without taking two steps backward?

I can sympathize with the dismay, or alarm. The prospect of having to look at the faces of Enrile and Santiago in newspapers and television over the next six years is a most unpleasant one, not least from the point of view of aesthetics. To have Enrile, who never won an honest election despite trying to disguise himself as a saint after the first Edsa, finally win in one after revealing to the world his true malevolent self during the impeachment trial—that is just too rich for words. And to have Santiago, who became senator for portraying herself as the scourge of the corrupt, remain so after showing herself to be their most ferociously insane coddler—it is hellish irony. It is enough to make you lose faith in divine providence. It is enough in fact to make you believe a demonic presence guides the fate of these islands.

Is it possible?

Well, stranger things have been known to happen. I've always wondered if this country was always able to tell the difference between fame and notoriety, between the riveting and the scandalous. If I recall right, Ramon Revilla became famous for portraying the notorious lowlife of Cavite—Nardong Putik, et al. And we've had a lot of movies about cops and robbers who are no different from each other. As with movie stars, who even go to the extent of inventing controversies about themselves to catch the public eye, no news seems to be bad news for politicians. Projection is the name of the game. The public tends to recall only the faces of people on the newspapers or TV, not the reasons for why they got there.

But it's too early in the day to despair. Surveys have a way of being self-fulfilling only because people tend to believe in them. I myself am still banking on the residual effects of People Power II and the sense of outrage of the citizens—I cannot believe the wellsprings of decency have dried up in this country—to carry the People Power Coalition candidates to victory. Or at least to make sure the unsavory characters listed above do not do so. Indeed, more than banking on those effects, I should think we ought to keep replaying in the public mind the real-life movie that just took us by storm last January, specifically with a view to stamping on it the heroes and villains there. This is a country that needs constant reminding. Lessons are never learnt once and for all. They have to be repeated again and again.

But though I too would be profoundly disgusted to see the faces of Enrile and Santiago and Honasan and Lacson grinning at me like gargoyles for the next six years, I don't know that I myself would start making plans to relocate elsewhere if that should happen.

The reason for this is that I cannot see why we should think of People Power II as a magic wand that will make everything right, including our choice of future leaders. I cannot see why we should think the struggle ended with People Power II, and we have a right only to sit back and expect the spoils of victory. I can only see that the struggle has just begun, and we need to exert ourselves anew to make sure that the gains of People Power II are kept and extended—before and after the elections.

Of course I too would like to see People Power II translate into electoral gains, and I am reasonably confident it will—to a point. But I cannot see why we should pin our hopes solely on them. Maybe we will get to make the 13 People Power Coalition candidates senators, maybe not. Maybe we will see Enrile and Santiago finally kicked in the butt by the voters, maybe not. The latter is not a reason to despair. It is a reason only to see that the struggle is a long and arduous one—"protracted" is how activists see it—and have to be pushed incessantly, indefatigably.

Specifically, from Day One after the elections: To make sure, if we win by a rout, that the same thing happens next elections, or to make sure, if we lose by a mile, that it doesn't happen again in the next elections. We keep talking of voter education, well, we cannot possibly educate the voter only during the campaign period. That is as silly as training athletes only a few months before the Olympics, or the Southeast Asian Games, and expecting them to come home with medals. Which we do. We talk of voter education, we must talk of educating the voter every day of his life in the three years before he votes. That is the only way we will win gold medals in elections.

That in the first place was how People Power II itself happened. It did not begin only last October, it began long before. It was not just the product of Gov. Chavit Singson's revelations and the impeachment trial, it was the product of the NGOs and POs and activists loudly protesting from the start Erap's attempt to bury Marcos in the Libingan ng mga Bayani. That was the process of education that laid the ground for it.

It's the same thing with elections. We keep thinking that electing good leaders, like ousting tyrants, is something we can do in record time, or worse, as something we can win "spontaneously," and we will keep setting ourselves up for an emotional mugging. The time to prepare for elections is the first day after the elections. In the same way that the time to prepare for ending tyranny is the first day after toppling a tyrant.

We have no time for that, and truly we should start thinking of moving elsewhere.

Melon Silverio takes on Binay/Locsin

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SOMETHING interesting is happening in Makati City. A Makati resident who has served as barangay Forbes Park kagawad for nine years but who is hardly known outside of her involvement in socio-civic projects of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, is being backed up by the "perfumed crowd" of Makati in the fight for the first congressional district.

That seat is now being vacated by third-term Rep. Joker Arroyo, who's running for the Senate under the People Power Coalition. The elite's as well as the Lakas-PPC's candidate in the first district is civic leader Melon Recto-Silverio, 53, who's running against two political neophytes but well-known personalities. These are Today publisher and TV personality Teddy Boy Locsin and feisty former MTRCB chief Armida Siguion Reyna. Because Melon is a virtual unknown vis-à-vis these two personalities, she is being billed as a David versus the two Goliaths.

* * *

Considered the front-runner in the race, principally because of the backing of former Mayor Jojo Binay, is Locsin who's running under the PDP-Laban. Binay is out to regain his seat that was warmed for one term by his wife Elenita. What helps to even out the fight somewhat for Silverio is the backing of the Makati elite, largely in terms of funding; but whether this could translate into a machinery and delivery system for votes and protection against electoral cheating remains to be seen. At the moment Binay remains the most formidable political force in Makati, and in fact pundits opine that despite Vice Mayor Edu Manzano's good looks and articulateness, his challenge remains a *"suntok sa buwan."*

By the way, another woman is running in the second district, challenging third-termer LDP Rep. Butz Aquino. She is Ana Cristal-Tenorio, a lawyer and colonel in the reserve force, who will probably also be backed up by the Makati elite, as many of its members are against Aquino.

* * *

Two successive events happened in Makati last week. Last Wednesday Melon Silverio was introduced to supporters by her elite backers, which included some high-powered and prominent ladies, at the Santuario parish hall. Melon showed up along with Manzano, his vice mayoralty running mate Dean Barbers (the councilor-son of Sen. Robert Barbers) and the lineup for councilors in both districts.

Two days earlier the same group of Makati ladies launched a new movement which they called the Citizens of Makati for Good Governance. These ladies included Forbes Park kagawad Rosanna Fores of the Senate impeachment fame, who is Melon's chief campaigner, Mercy Tuason, Bea Zobel, Olivia Romulo, Bambina Buenaventura, Ching Montinola and Mert Loinaz.

* * *

The Good Governance group's target is, expectedly, Mayor Jojo Binay, whose uninterrupted occupancy of Makati's City Hall since 1986 makes him the longest-serving Metro Manila mayor. Accusing Binay of corrupt leadership over the years, they noted that barely one year in office, he already found himself "overwhelmed" in 1987 by a scandal of "unprecedented proportions" involving P137 million. The crusaders pointed out that the Ombudsman recommended Binay's arraignment by the Sandiganbayan, and that five years later he was arrested and jailed, but his unlikely ally, Yabut, bailed him out. They stressed that nine years later, Binay, then on his last term as mayor, petitioned the Supreme Court to inhibit the Sandiganbayan from hearing his case due to the lack of a proper venue. Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, the crusaders stressed, sat on the Binay motion for nine years, and it was only under Chief Justice Hilario Davide that it was returned to the Sandiganbayan.

Now, after almost 15 years, the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division is set to arraign the controversial mayor again on April 27, unless of course, this is thwarted again. Hence this campaign against him.

* * *

The crusaders point out that despite revenues of over P3.5 billion annually, Makati's public debt has grown to P5 billion and purchase disallowances to P625 million, while assets have decreased to P10.3 billion in the last two years. They stress cash in bank unverifiables, which show at one time discrepancies in the books amounting to P.5 billion, overpricings of purchases as well as bloated payrolls. The crusaders point out that the Office of the Mayor has close to 6,000 casual employees with a budget amounting to P400 million a year, drawn from various barangays. They now constitute the vaunted political machinery that his opponents dread.

For the perfumed Makati crowd Binay has always been difficult to accept, but now, as one of them put it, *"Kung hindi ngayon,* after Edsa Dos, *kailan pa?"* The story is that Zobel and Tuason had originally intended to back up Locsin; but after Binay adopted him, they backed off and now support Silverio.

* * *

So who is Melon Silverio and why has she chosen to take on Binay when she succumbed to the Forbes Park set's pressure to battle his anointed, Locsin? When Melon goes around in the poorer sections of Makati in her *maong* and T-shirt, pumping the smelly hands of fish-vendors and the grimy hands of gasoline boys, this dark-skinned portly mother of three kids looks kind of *masa*, very different from the *tisays* who support her. In fact in the hustings she elicits comments like, *"Ay, mabuti naman na may kandidatong muli na mahirap."* By contrast, the *mestizo* Teddy Boy, according to observers, comes in as frightfully *elitista* and *"suplado."* Melon's handlers have realized her *masa* appeal and now accent her name on the second syllable; as she makes the rounds, they plan to hand out juice from the popular summer fruit to hasten name recall.

* * *

Makati's *masa* think she sprang from their midst, but actually, this Assumption-educated foreign service graduate is a Recto from Batangas on her mom's side (a second cousin of PPC senatorial candidate Ralph Recto) and a Silverio from Bulacan, related to the congressman. She speaks English with a clipped educated accent, but she can dish off a speech in Filipino like any regular NGO.

Supporters speak reverently of her. At first Fores was the one being pushed to run in the first district, but she claims that "when you put me next to Melon, I pale in comparison to her leadership and public service programs," such as her feeding and scholarship programs. "You can trust her with every centavo," says Elisa del Mundo-Bengzon. Assumption classmate C.B. Garucho testifies on how disasters, such as the Mt. Pinatubo eruption and the Baguio earthquake, couldn't frighten her away from her service to the needy. Marivic Concepcion notes that her husband, Forbes Park barangay captain Joe Concepcion, relies on kagawad Melon a lot. Manzano says with a wink that the men in the city's PPC ticket become "perfect gentlemen" in Melon's company and "never have we prayed so hard in all our lives as now" that this lady member of the Secular Franciscan Order is leading their ticket.

One year

LETTER FROM MINDANAO

Carolyn O. Arguillas

"REJOICE 4 God's mercy 2 d evacuees. It's their b-day 2day! A year of untold sufferngs. tnx 4 ur help 2 make them survive."

I received that text message above last Saturday, from a Maranao who's been helping the evacuees in Marawi City—those who fled their villages in the neighboring Lanao provinces and sought refuge in evacuation centers or in their relatives' houses in the country's only "Islamic City."

That they survived, indeed, is something to be happy about and to thank God or Allah for. At least 300 people displaced by Erap's "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front last year, most of them children and elderly, died in the evacuation centers across Central Mindanao.

Erap declared his "all-out war" on March 21 last year, in Kauswagan town, Lanao del Norte. That it was declared in a place whose meaning means "progress," is so ironical.

Last week, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo visited Tamparan in Lanao del Sur, to accept rebel surrenderers. "Welcome home, brothers...the war is over," she was quoted as saying. .

The guns may have been silenced for now but the situation requires close watch because there are still sectors out there who believe the best option is still the military option.

Erap said so in Iligan a few days ago, in reaction to Ms Macapagal's suspension of military operations (Somo) against the MILF. Peace negotiations, he said, have been going on for years and have achieved nothing.

There are many who share Erap's view just as there are many who believe the military solution is no solution at all. The 1970s war proved that; the 2000 war proved that as well.

The defense department has yet to say exactly how much money was spent on bullets and bombs and other operational costs of the shooting war last year. How much was spent to give to the families of soldiers slain and wounded? Did those envelopes containing thick wads of cash and distributed to commanders during visits of top officials also come from the defense department's budget?

The statements of expenditures of the national government agencies and local government units have yet to be collated as to give us a better picture of how much was spent last year for assistance to the evacuees—food, shelter, medicines, etc.

The statements of expenditures of all nongovernmental organizations and dioceses that helped the evacuees have yet to be collated, too. And because government agencies' help was very limited and evacuees had to rely on the NGOs and the Church for assistance, one can imagine how many hundreds of millions of pesos more the NGOs and the Church spent.

Imagine how many billions of pesos were spent last year on the war, relief and rehabilitation.

But while expenses can be recorded in pesos and cents, the social costs cannot. For how do you put a price to the near collapse of almost 30 years of peace-building efforts in Mindanao? How do you measure feelings in pesos and cents? How do you quantify the loss of lives, limbs and livelihood? How do you quantify losses in terms of trust between neighbors? How do you quantify losses in terms of children missing a year in school or losing their fathers or mothers? How do you measure the increase in the levels of biases and prejudices against Muslims? Through surveys of TV viewers in Metro Manila who lauded Erap's "all-out war"?

Last year was a most difficult year for Muslims in this country, given the kidnappings of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists and the bombings in key cities that were immediately blamed on the MILF. Were the bombings really perpetrated by this group or by some other groups with vested interests?

Can the Moro women now wear their *"kumbong"* without fear of being harassed in checkpoints and malls? Will taxi drivers in Manila no longer snub women wearing *"kumbong"*?

* * *

It's been a while since images from Erap's "all-out war" last year were shown on nationwide TV. Until the TV campaign ad of senatorial candidate Orly Mercado, in his favorite black shirt, that is.

I wonder why the ad campaign shows footage of children evacuees, soldiers in the field and at the burst of gunfire, Mercado saying, *"nagulo ang paligid"* then some seconds later, *"Sila ang mga kapwa ko. Laging una sa akin."*

To remind the soldiers how he, as defense secretary, was, in the words of then Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes, "one of us"? To remind the majority who lauded last year's "all-out war" that they should vote for him? *Sino ang gumulo ng paligid?*

* * *

The war last year left images you can never forget as long as you live. Of children fighting over a plate of rice. Mortars being fired; bombs being dropped from the skies; evacuees arriving, suffering from chills due to exhaustion and hunger; ghost villages; emptied houses; huge bomb craters; cornfields waiting for harvesters; soldiers with rosaries around their necks; fear in the eyes of young soldiers off to their first war; terror in the eyes of the children; flowers by the roadside waiting for loving hands to pick; bombed-out mosques and houses; ruins here and there; "tent cities" to accommodate evacuees, their bed, the ground; makeshift hospitals, ailing children and the elderly; makeshift classrooms; children helping children evacuees; a mother crying; peace advocates going on caravan from Davao City to Cotabato City; and yes, a very young Marine soldier along the Ramos Highway who stopped to smell a red rose and, thinking that no one saw him, plucked it and put it in his front pocket.

Food insecurity

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

SHEEP, bless their gentle hearts, and their English herders, are being blamed for the genesis of mad cow disease (contrary to text messages in Manila pinning a certain well-schooled, self-admiring Philippine senator as Patient Zero). Humans may be at the top of the food chain, but they also seem to be at the bottom of some major disasters.

It seems that carcasses of cuddly sheep, grass-eating ruminants that give the world its wool, have regularly been processed and fed to cows as high-protein food supplements. Unfortunately several decades ago, scrapie, which is actually "mad sheep disease," was prevalent among English flocks even as they were being fed into cows.

One theory says the practice may have led to a cycle of intense cross-species infection. A variant of the sheep disease developed in cows, the now famous bovine spongiform encephalopathy and has devastated the British beef industry. Britain, in recent years, has been forced to slaughter millions of cows and suffer the loss of global markets, after it was found that at least 27 well-documented cases of a fatal variant in humans, called Jakob-Creutzfeld disease, could be traced to cows with the bovine variant.

This family of related diseases, which affects all mammals, including men, cows, sheep, pigs, dogs, cats and even minks and rabbits, attacks and destroys their central nervous systems, resulting in death, if not necessarily in madness. Brains turn to sponge.

Now to be fair to the English, it was the Americans who made a big industry out of recycling dead animals, road kill and the occasional escapees from zoos and circuses into animal feed, bone and blood meal. A century ago, big Chicago meat packers revolutionized the livestock and dairy industries of Midwestern America by making protein food supplements from animal sources cheaply available. Nothing goes to waste, everything goes into the rendering vat, if it used to be alive and walked on four legs. Six-legged creatures (insects) and eight-legged ones (spiders) have probably also made it into their melting pots. Let's not contemplate the other possibilities.

All big producers and dairies today use such supplements because, for example, they can get 10 times more milk from "omnivorous cattle" than traditional grass-chewing grazers. Cow protein can be good for cows. But ever since the animal protein rendering industry came to be, cows, pigs, sheep, chickens and other domesticated animals, have been fed with a steady diet of, well, themselves. The wags are warning that nature is exacting a price for turning cows and sheep into unwitting cannibals and carnivores.

As a result of the outbreak, the Americans have been nervously looking across the Atlantic because their much larger population of cows could quietly go berserk and infect American beef and dairy industries with what currently ails the English and Europe. Their 100 million cows are literally at the core of a vast dairy and beef industry that also happens to be a foundation stone of the entire US food industry.

The Philippines banned all beef from Europe last November, but the recent reports of suspicious beef from Ireland arriving here in December and January, ignited a tempest in a *bulalo* pot, that still has the purveyors of hamburgers, hotdogs and beef in general, reeling. The general public is cynically inclined to believe in the corruptibility of customs and quarantine officials, so the fervent insistence by agriculture department officials that tainted beef did not make it into the food supply could not prevent people from taking precautions by shunning beef.

Purveyors of fish and chicken fast foods have been cashing in on the bonanza of eaters forsaking cow flesh. This only proves that nature dispenses her scourges with an even hand. Recall the scare of several years ago involving chicken flu, which also resulted in a slaughter of millions of the fowl in Hong Kong.

As for Europe, they got another jolt of food-related hysteria last week. Alerts on the highly contagious foot-and-mouth-disease, precipitated the use of disinfectant footbaths at many continental airports. It seems funny but international contagion by FMD is indeed carried by millions of travelers' feet, or their shoes to be precise, though foot-and-mouth disease itself is not named for that.

It has more to do with hooves, lips and teats in the affected animal populations of pigs, horses and cows, as we in the Philippines well know because FMD has been prevalent here for years. Luckily, you can't catch anything serious from FMD, as long as the meat is well-done, which Filipinos luckily like, preferably deep-fried.

Ideological or radical vegetarians who call themselves vegans, and strictly enforce vegetarian diets even on their pets, are in quiet paroxysms of told-you-so triumphalism as they haughtily survey the consternation and dismay of the meat-eating world. But they really have no reason to rejoice. There are enough horror stories about the vegetable products we commonly use here that a healthier-than-thou attitude cannot be supported by the actual prospects.

Never mind the overuse of pesticides harmful to humans or the application of preservatives like formaldehyde on perishable fruits and vegetables. What about the nearly universal practice in our rice-growing regions, of drying the unhusked rice kernels on national highways for lack of proper post-harvest facilities? Perhaps the labeling for diesel and lead content of Philippine rice will be demanded and implemented, along with their GMO content as some suggest.

With El Niño droughts coming back, reduced harvests expected, insect pestilence and weather effects ever-present, and the population growing at a poverty-making 2 percent annually, no one may care, even in this era of food scares and insecurities.

Proper flag honors for a fallen police officer

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LAST March 11, the Inquirer published on its front page a photo of solemn-faced President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo viewing the remains of Police Chief Insp. Abelardo Martin who allegedly died in the course of a chance encounter between Army soldiers and NPA rebels in the mountain fastness of Quezon.

The Philippine flag was shown draped over Martin's coffin, with the sun and stars resting at the abdominal portion of his body. His cap, the icon of an angel and what looked like sampaguita flowers were on top of the flag.

This arrangement caught the attention of a reader, P.N. Beltran of West Triangle, Quezon City. He did not find anything wrong with the President going out of her way to pay her respects to the fallen police officer. But he was not comfortable with the apparent disregard of some rules on flag etiquette.

He wrote in part: "...When a soldier dies, the flag is laid upon his casket as a token that he died in the service of his country and that the government takes the responsibility of what it ordered him to do as a soldier. So that we pay outward reverence to our national flag, it should be placed so that the three stars are at the head of the casket and over the left shoulder of the deceased.

"With the blue field fixed on the right as the flag faces the coffin, it may be said that the flag is embracing the deceased who in life had served the flag. No object or any emblem of any kind should be on or above the national flag and it should not be allowed to touch the ground or the floor.

"I have fought for our flag many times during World War II without even being aware of our Constitution and I hope that we will learn to observe a matter of etiquette in inherited discipline and tradition."

Although Beltran's letter had nothing to do with the treatment of the news and photo about the late police official, I thought the message it sought to impart was important enough to deserve reproduction in this column.

Will the military and police officials in charge of funeral ceremonies for their fallen comrades please take note of the reader's comments on the correct way to drape the flag on a coffin?

Letters to the editor

A reader, whose identity I prefer to keep under wraps, wrote last week to complain about the "refusal" of the Inquirer to print the letters he earlier sent.

Describing himself as following the footsteps of his father who was an avid reader of the newspaper, he said "once at the height of the debate on the death penalty, I sent two consecutive letters and nowhere, never, was it published. The same treatment again I received about a month and a half ago when I sent the same letter enclosed in this envelope.

"I sent the same letter two weeks ago, this time I reformed it a little bit, with no response again. With this letter sent for the third time, I hope you will be charitable enough to publish it this time. No opinion can be perfect and I hope your policy should not be very strict so as to accommodate my letter.

"...If I may mention some of your regular senders whose articles are always published, these are Eric Bahrt, Mr. Olaguer, Ramon Gonzales, R.A.V. Saguisag and Fr. Robert Reyes to name a few. I see nothing so significantly objectionable about my letter or article except that it might be too long."

Yes, Mr. Reader, your two (long size) page, single-spaced, letter is quite lengthy. If published unedited, it would occupy two-thirds of the entire Letters section. Deleting portions of the letter is not feasible because its contents are inter-related and cutting any paragraph will make the succeeding paragraphs unintelligible.

The sheer volume of letters the Inquirer receives daily makes it impossible to give all the writers the opportunity to have their views or comments on the issues of the day see print.

Every day, the newspaper receives an average of 50 letters from the mail and messengerial companies. The e-mail facility—feedback@inquirer.com.ph—it created for electronically connected readers gets approximately 100 letters daily. This does not include the letters sent by e-mail to the individual addresses of the editor in chief, managing editor, senior editors and, lately, the readers' advocate.

Letters that are brief or concise have an advantage over lengthy or long-winded letters. With so many letters competing for space in the Letters section, short letters are preferred because they allow the publication of as many letters as possible in one issue.

Campaign posters

Last March 12, the Inquirer published at the lower right hand portion of the front page a photo of the posts of the Metro Rail Transit at Edsa filled with the posters of four senatorial candidates, namely, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Panfilo Lacson and Franklin Drilon.

Pangilinan's posters, which featured his boyish face, dominated the posts. The newspaper photo carried the caption "Despite a Comelec ban election, campaign posters are sprouting everywhere, even under the MRT tracks."

The photo did not sit well with a reader who did not give his or her name and had a unique e-mail address—639175232969.gsm@sms.globe.com.ph.

Here's how the reader's letter reads: WE COMPLAIN ABT PDI FOTO N FRNT PAGE 2DAY WC S MALCIOUS & NFAIR. Y U CHOSE A FOTO W 80% KIKO POSTRS AS IF HE S D ONLY 1 DOIN DIS.

For the benefit of the text language-impaired, the message may be translated as: We complain about the Philippine Daily Inquirer photo on your front page today which is malicious and unfair. You chose a photo with 80 percent of Pangilinan's posters as if he is the only one doing this.

Under ordinary circumstances, I would have ignored the letter. It was not signed and there was doubt whether the reader was serious about his or her complaint. But the manner the letter was written amused me. It was the first time I received a text message in my e-mail.

When told about the complaint, the editor in chief said the photo was published because of its substance and composition. There was no intention to pick on Pangilinan. It so happened that when the Inquirer photographer took the picture, his posters occupied most of the MRT posts. Had the posters of any other candidate been there at the time the photographer passed by the place, the same would have been similarly featured.

She further explained that the photo is aimed at calling the readers' attention to the rampant violation of the Comelec's prohibition on the indiscriminate posting of campaign posters. It's either the Comelec is sleeping on the job or the candidates themselves have shown no respect at all for the campaign rules.

On the reader's claim that Pangilinan is not the only one violating the posting rules, the editor in chief replied that it is no excuse or justification to commit an illegal act simply because others are doing it. The candidates have to set the example in complying with the law. They cannot and should not be above the law.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE PPI
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Labor vote must be organized

CRISPIN Beltran of the Kilusang Mayo Uno seems to have finally seen the light of day.

For a time, he dismissed as mere reformism the active participation of militant labor in electoral politics in order to win concessions and reforms from the government. He condemned the reactionary parliament as collaborationism, while he and his colleagues engaged in parliamentary elections only to advance their propaganda war.

In the 1998 elections, they incessantly vented their ire on labor leader Renato Magtubo, who participated in the party-list elections as a nominee of Sanlakas and won as its representative in Congress.

Three years since then, not only are they taking part in full force in the coming elections by fielding their candidates in the party-list and local government level, Beltran has also demanded pro-labor reforms from aspiring senators in exchange for labor's vote in May. (PDI, 3/1/01)

Beltran must be dreaming. Nothing will come out of these demands other than empty promises and motherhood statements from vote-seeking politicos. As long as the "labor vote" is yet to be organized and recognized as a political force that can make or break a politician's bid for office, our demands will inevitably fall on deaf ears.

The 33 million labor force may comprise the nation's majority. But while it does not have the commanding vote held by influential institutions like the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai, it will not gain the respect and esteem it deserves.

Even the lowliest unionist knows this fact. If workers want their employer to give in to their demands, they must unite. For with unity, labor bargains from a position of strength.

During elections, this labor unity is manifested through a labor vote—a solid vote commanded by a labor party whose membership encompasses the overwhelming majority of non-unionized workers.

Ka Bel and the KMU may have overlooked this elementary truth as they rely more on horse trading than direct action. They first displayed this tactic when they presented their "People's Agenda" to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The labor vote must be organized. If not, labor will only reap promises of heaven and the stars from aspiring candidates who are fighting over our fragmented ballot.—**VICTOR BRIZ, secretary general, Partido ng Manggagawa**

Visitor's reaction to DOT 'revolt'

IN REACTION to a news item in your "Gordon faces 1st DOT revolt" (PDI, 3/15/01), then followed up in the afternoon "TV Patrol" news program of ABS-CBN showing DOT employees association members staging a protest rally against the leadership style of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, permit me to comment on what actually transpired on that Monday flag ceremony which I personally witnessed.

On that particular day, the DOT security guards were raising the Philippine flag without any respect for the significance of what they were doing. They carelessly tangled up the flag between the cord which caught the attention of Gordon who ordered the guards to redo the whole exercise, making sure that the flag was raised properly.

After the flag raising and on his way to the microphone located at the landing of the concrete stairway fronting the DOT building for his usual Monday talk, Gordon noticed and picked up a cigarette butt on the stairs and after putting it in his pocket, started his short remarks by imploring all employees to be conscious of litter and do the extra effort of picking up and throwing litter in the trash can as a good example to inculcate to everybody the importance of cleanliness to attract more tourists back to our shores.

On the "TV Patrol" coverage, the president of the DOTEA was complaining on TV the "inhuman and dictatorial" humiliation Gordon had dealt the guard who could not raise the flag the right way by saying that the next time he committed the same mistake, he would be the one tied up and raised. Of course this was said in a joking manner, eliciting laughter from those present.

It is rather sad that this beautiful country is littered with trash and cigarette butts that are indiscriminately thrown around, shocking foreign tourists who are now avoiding the Philippines for better and cleaner Asian countries.

It is a shame to see that while the leadership of the tourism department in this country is trying to change bad habits by inculcating the values of discipline and cleanliness, employees of the same department are the first to object and repudiate the well-meaning intentions of the secretary. The "I-don't-care" attitude of the employees cannot make for a better tourism image.

Are the employees demanding that the secretary change his style or step down? I say it's about time they wake up to reality and appreciate the fact that here is a dynamic leader pragmatic enough to invoke discipline by example.

I am a European married to a Filipino. Please give us a better, cleaner and greener Philippines.—**MIRIAM BERNASCONI, P.O. Box 008, San Fernando City, La Union 2500**

New chance with better officials

NOW that we are approaching another election, let us grab the chance to make a real change. We are once more given the chance to start over with a clean slate, let us not waste it. Let us not forget that the reason we needed to have an Edsa II was because we forgot the lessons of Edsa I. We again had to pay the price with a corrupt leader who besmirched the dignity of the presidency and nearly emptied the State coffers.

Now we are given the opportunity to vote in a new, fresh leadership. The Filipino people should apply sound reasoning to make a genuine change in the government. They should elect leaders based on their ability to guide the people toward prosperity and fight for justice. They should not elect them merely because of their popularity as movie stars, basketball heroes or what have you. Have we not had enough of politicians whose only accomplishment was to line their pockets, and those of their cronies?

We can only hope and pray that our new President, and the people who will be elected this coming May will prove to be true leaders of this country. A true leader is someone who has the intelligence, experience, ability, strength of character and moral integrity to face the country's mounting problems. These are daunting challenges like poverty and piles of trash in our streets. A leader is someone who can make a better future for the Philippines and for our children.—**MILAGROS P. KLEIST, Upper Cubi, Subic Bay Freeport Zone**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Stigma on leprosy no longer true

I WOULD like to take exception to the letter sent by someone whose name was withheld on request titled, "Political lepers" last Jan. 20, 2001 in the Letters section of the INQUIRER.

The Department of Health has been very successful in its fight against leprosy in the country. Medicines to cure leprosy were introduced since the 1950s and with the introduction of the MultiDrug Therapy in the 1980s, the prevalence of leprosy has significantly decreased and even eliminated in some regions of our country.

However, the stigma attached to leprosy is still relatively strong and to continue branding persons to be ostracized as lepers is not helping the government's effort. Thousands have been cured and have gone back to the mainstream of our society. It may take several more years to educate and eventually have a change in the knowledge, attitude and practices of our community toward leprosy. Let's all contribute to that.—**EDWARD D. TAN, M.D., 36-17 Sunset Drive, Carmenville Subd., Angeles City**

Unacceptable judgment

WE are appalled by the conviction of former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan Jr. in the Sandiganbayan. We know Tan to be an honest and hardworking man who lived simply. Respected by his peers and subordinates, he devoted many years of his life to the book industry and to public service. We are horrified that an honest and dedicated public servant was judged and indicted in a desperate attempt to convince a rightfully cynical public that the Ombudsman is doing his job.

We, in the book industry, have the highest regard for Tan. He was a visionary who, ahead of anyone else, gave his unqualified support to outstanding Filipino masters by publishing the works of such Philippine literary greats as Nick Joaquin, NVM Gonzalez, Bienvenido Santos, Jose Garcia Villa and Francisco Arcellana. He recognized and fully appreciated the urgency of encouraging Filipinos to read books by Filipino authors not only by publishing but also by distributing them through his bookstore chain.

We cannot in our wildest imagination think of him guilty of the charges against him.

The gross injustice committed against Bienvenido Tan Jr. by an Ombudsman who merely watched the plunder of our nation, makes us gravely doubt the competence, commitment and sincerity of Aniano Desierto. If he can bring about the conviction of an innocent man, how then will he deal with ousted President Joseph Estrada? How can he truly serve the cause of justice?—**KARINA A. BOLASCO FOR THE BOOK DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, Anvil Publishing Inc., 2nd Floor, Team Pacific Bldg., 14 P. Antonio St., Barrio Ugong, Pasig City**

* * *

WE write to join the Philippine Business for Social Progress in its statement of support for former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan Jr. (PDI, 3/9/01, P. B4).

We have known Tan for many years as an exemplary citizen who combines business and professional ability with a strong social orientation. We feel there has been a ghastly error in his case.—**BENITO AND ANGELITA LEGARDA, 7 Polk St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila**

* * *

WE at the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran throw our support behind former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Bienvenido Tan Jr., whom we know is innocent of the graft charges hurled against him by the Sandiganbayan.

My first encounter with Tan was way back in 1989 when I was virtually an unknown entity and he was still commissioner of the BIR. He attended to my complaint of over-assessment even when I was a small-time taxpayer. He encouraged me to file a case against the assessor who only wanted to get some money from me and I was sure that I do not owe the government any money.

Many years later, despite his busy schedule, he accommodated us in various breakfast meetings and advised us on how to set up the Kaisa Heritage Foundation emphasizing each time the need for integrity, transparency and accountability. He was always helpful when consulted about matters concerning the Bahay Tsinoy where today, we proudly include his late uncle, former UP president Dr. Vidal Tan, as our most outstanding Tsinoy in the field of education.

Tan has quietly proven that a businessman and a lawyer and a public servant of a graft-ridden government agency at that, can be a model of honesty, integrity and civic-consciousness. The least we can do today is to come out and vouch for him and his person. He deserves no less from all of us who have learned from him.—**TERESITA ANG SEE, executive trustee, Kaisa Heritage Foundation, Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center Bldg., Anda corner Cabildo Streets, Intramuros, Manila**

Leave it alone

IN HUMANS, the equivalent of mad cow disease is the Jakob-Creutzfeldt disease, a rare condition seen in one out of two million people. It is characterized by muscle jerks, incoordination and progressive mental deterioration until death ensues in six months to one year. It is caused by a special protein called prion which is not even a virus. It is smaller than a virus but capable of replicating until the brain is reduced into a sponge-like structure. Unfortunately, it cannot be destroyed by heat or antibiotics. Special chemical treatment with NaOH is necessary to deactivate it. It is also present in sheep known as "scrapie"; in cows it is called bovine encephalopathy or "mad cow" disease; and in deer as "mad deer" disease. In all these species, it has a rapid invariably fatal course with the brain as its main target.

The human prion protein can be transmitted to other humans by cannibalism (eating human brain) and to other species i.e. monkeys by inoculation into the brain with an incubation period lasting for months. Unfortunately, some animal forms like mad cow disease has been reported to be transmitted to humans in England and France by eating beef. There is a high concentration of the prion protein in the brain.

There is fear of course that the prion protein could be transmitted to Filipinos if cheap feed made up of ground carcasses of cows affected by the disease were fed to our livestock. England has been exporting this kind of feed until lately. It is possible that some of our feed mills have imported this kind of feed.

We have read in the newspapers that the agriculture secretary and the President are going to eat beef in public to combat the fear of mad cow disease. The President and our officials should not engage in this kind of propaganda for multinationals selling us beef burgers or Australian beef which is reportedly free of mad cow disease. It may be a good thing for beef consumption to go down because in the first place, we do not have enough livestock to meet our needs for beef and its importation will cost us precious dollars. On the other hand, we can make our pork and poultry industry more profitable since we have the capacity to produce enough chicken and pork to provide for our needs.

Furthermore, it is healthier to eat chicken than beef. In chicken, the fat is in the skin. In beef, cholesterol is embedded in the meat which makes it more tasty (i.e. marbled steak). Therefore, from both the national economic and health aspects, the scare of mad cow disease is better left alone.—**MARTESIO C. PEREZ, M.D., Makati Medical Center**

Appeal for Mindanao

WE rejoice with the nation in its victory over evil. We offer our salutations to the President who marked the end of a corrupt and unjust administration.

And yet, we also feel trepidation (as the President intimated in her speech at Edsa) over the fact that the new governance she called for must be installed urgently, and this task would involve not only livelihoods but lives as well.

The President knows very well about Mindanao and its precarious situation and the Muslims' plight all over the country. A nation founded on inequity will never grow to be globally competitive. Coupled with the injustice that has sprung on the island during and in the aftermath of an ill-intended war, we call on the administration to prioritize the goals for Mindanao with a view to genuine peace, growth and development. These advocacies do not necessarily mean the minimizing of other national goals. They do mean greater urgency and more effective application of our resources to Mindanao affairs.

We must first address the root causes of conflict founded on religious intolerance, misunderstanding, historical insensitivity, corruption, traditional politics, miseducation or lack of education and non-participatory governance. These ideas are lifetime struggles to keep and fight for. And so we propose these recommendations to:

- Release the Moros detained for the Glorietta bombings.
- Prioritize Mindanao's rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Pass legislation penalizing the use of the term "Muslim terrorist" in the media.—**YOUNG MUSLIM PROFESSIONALS IN METRO MANILA**

CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
#20 Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center
City of Makati, Philippines
Tel: (632) 898 5002 - 05
Fax: (632) 899 4577 & 79
Email: cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu

Description

This undertaking of the Ateneo Center for Continuing Education and the Infocomms sectors will review the existing policy and regulatory framework in Information Communications Technology (Infocomms), identify the weaknesses in the current policy and regulatory structure and explore solutions and alternative organizational models and techniques to ensure its orderly development and growth. The proposed "best fit" solution will be critiqued and discussed in a panel composed of high level officials in government and industry.

Details

Date : March 26, 28, April 2, 2001
Days : Monday, Wednesday & Monday
Time : 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Venue : APS Auditorium
Registration : Please call (02) 898 5002 - 05 and 7296864 for details/ reservations.

* Special Rates for Members of Participating Associations, Academe, Graduate Students, Media, Government, and Corporate.

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS
Graduate School of Business
Information Technology Institute
School of Government
School of Law

Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines · Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation · Philippine Computer Society · Institute of Electronic Communication Engineers of the Philippines · Electronic Commerce Association of the Philippines · Semiconductor Electronics Industry of the Philippines, Inc. · Department of Transportation and Communication

A SYMPOSIUM ON MANAGING INFOCOMMS & PUBLIC POLICY

March 26, Monday

Main Symposium Document:
DOTC Paper:
"A Infocomms Policy for the Information Economy"

Panel Discussion #1
Strengthening the Infocomms Policy and Regulatory Regime
- Industry Analysis & Outlook : Telecommunications
- Industry Analysis & Outlook : Information Technology
- Competition Policy and Concerns about Monopoly
- Enactment of New Regulatory Structures and Legislation Consistent with Emerging Technologies
- Principles of Self Regulation

OPEN FORUM

Panel Discussion #2
Enhancing Economic Environment and the Global Markets
- New Economy and the Future Markets
- Creating Incentives for Global Competitiveness
- Convergence and Multi-Media
- Open Forum
- Marketing Surveys, Promotions and Incentives
- Government as Lead User of Infocomms
- Human Resource Development and Certification

OPEN FORUM

March 28, Wednesday

Panel Discussion #3
Incentivising the Building of Digital Broadband Network
- Incentivising the Construction of Digital Broadband Networks for Multi-Media Applications
- Incentivising the Content Industry
- Use of Multi-Media Entertainment to Promote the Use of the Network

OPEN FORUM

Panel Discussion #4
Promoting Universal Access and Service
- Provisioning of Internet Connection to Rural Communities, Schools, and Libraries
- New Social Challenges Impacting on Moral Code and Ethics
- Consumer Protection: Quality of Service Assurance, Security and Privacy

OPEN FORUM

WORKSHOP
Extending to Friday, March 30

April 2, Monday

Consolidation of Workshop Discussions

Presentation of Workshop Outputs to a Panel of Senior Government and Industry Officials and the Information Technology and e-Commerce Promotion Council.

The WORLD

MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

WORLD'S BIGGEST INSTALLATION

Brazil rushes to save sinking rig

MACAE, Brazil—Brazil's state oil giant Petrobras stepped up efforts to save the world's biggest offshore oil rig on Saturday and prevent environmental damage after a series of blasts sent it tilting into the ocean and killed 10 workers.

Petrobras flew in US and Dutch experts and equipment from Europe to keep the listing 40-story platform afloat and prevent pipelines and onboard tanks from spilling oil into the ocean.

"The situation is slightly better," said Petrobras President Henri Philippe Reichstul from Campos Basin headquarters in Macae. "The platform is sinking at a slower pace, but it is still sinking."

Three blasts rocked the rig early Thursday, killing 10 of the 175 then aboard and seriously injuring another. Petrobras said on Saturday that it had given up hope that nine missing workers from the fire brigade had survived, and counted them among the dead.

Petrobras, the biggest company in Brazil, is still trying to determine the cause of the explosions. "We do not yet know if it was gas or some type of oil," said Reichstul.

While workers raced to stabilize the platform, Reichstul said the recovery of the bodies was "the main task."

Only one severely burned body that had been hanging from a support column was recovered. Police said an autopsy and DNA tests would be performed to identify the badly burned body. The others were thought to be in a chamber that was completely submerged.

On the streets of the oil boom town, victims' relatives expressed frustration with Petrobras, which has been accused by unions of contracting work to inexperienced workers to cut costs, thus putting employees at risk and endangering the environment.

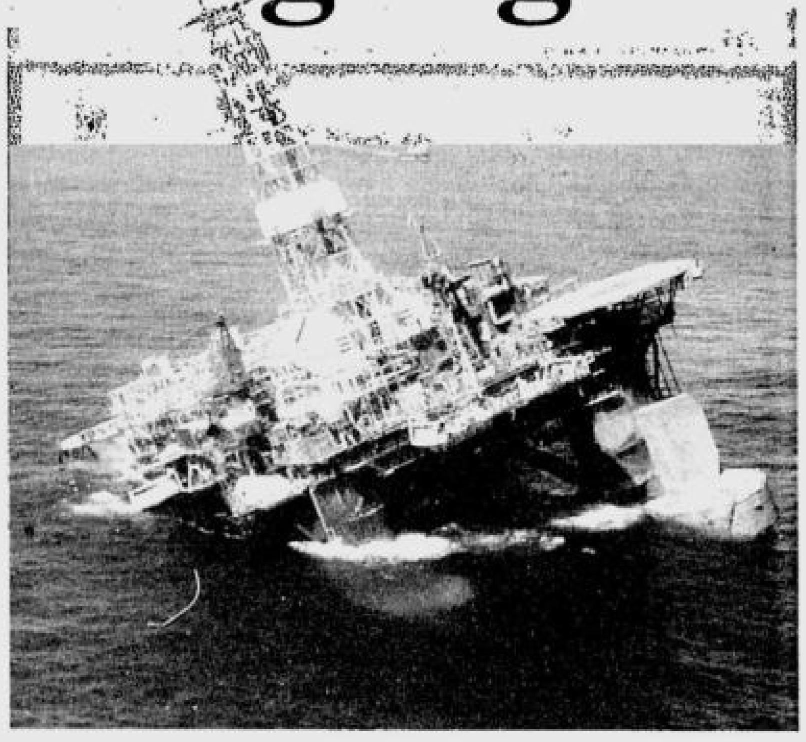
Luiz Carlos de Angeli said his brother-in-law, one of the dead, "was carrying out all types of job and getting only one salary. The family is very bitter."

A Petrobras exploration and production director, Carlos Tadeu Fraga, told Reuters there was no danger that oil would spring from deep sea wells.

"The well heads are completely closed and there is no chance they will be damaged or open if the platform sinks because they are not under the platform," Fraga said. "Our submarines checked them two times and they are securely closed. An oil spill from the bottom is ruled out." The well heads are nearly 1.3 km below the surface.

The federal environmental agency, Ibama, confirmed that no major disaster was on the cards.

"From an environmental point of view, we saw nothing that worried us," said Ibama's coordinator for Rio de Janeiro state, Carlos Henrique Mendes, after flying over the platform." *Reuters*



AN OIL platform owned by Brazilian company Petrobas lists badly off the northern coast of Rio de Janeiro. Authorities say it threatened to sink into the ocean after a series of explosions leaving 10 people dead. REUTERS

India opposition wants gov't to resign

NEW DELHI—The Indian government on Saturday shrugged aside a blistering campaign demanding its resignation over a bribery scandal, as the opposition said the ruling coalition had lost the moral authority to rule.

Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, the Cabinet number two, ruled out the government's resignation and said the coalition was prepared to face a no-confidence vote in parliament.

"If the opposition thinks we do not have a majority let them move a no-confidence motion. Everything will become crystal clear," Advani said.

The scandal surrounds a video expose of corruption in defense procurement by the website www.tehelka.com, showing senior politicians, bureaucrats and Army officials apparently taking bribes from journalists posing as arms dealers.

Opposition leader Sonia Gandhi of the Congress Party launched a scathing attack on the crisis-hit government earlier on Saturday, ridiculing a judicial probe ordered by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajapayee into the scandal Friday in a televised address to the nation. *AFP*

Britain begins slaughter of the innocents

LONDON—Britain began culling apparently healthy animals on Sunday in a desperate bid to stop the foot-and-mouth outbreak in its tracks, while a nervous mainland Europe tightened up its anti-disease measures.

The tally of infected sites in Britain had reached 297 by Sunday morning with the agriculture ministry announcing 24 new cases, including one in Shropshire, central England, which had until now been free of the contagion.

Agriculture ministry officials announced that at two farms in Scotland they had already started their program of slaughtering sheep even though they were showing no symptoms of foot-and-mouth.

Scientists say the preemptive cull is needed to create fire-breaks around infected sites in order to prevent secondary waves of infection, but furious farmers have reacted by threatening a "rural revolt."

The new wave of slaughter had been postponed until Monday so government vets could travel to the affected areas, Cumbria in northwest England and the southwest corner of Scotland, to explain the policy to farmers.

However, a spokesperson for the Scottish Executive, which has some autonomy from London, said they had decided to "crack on" with the cull north of the border as soon as possible.

Meanwhile in London, the agriculture ministry signaled that despite farmers' objections, it was standing firm on its plans for a preemptive cull in England.

"If we don't take some form of decisive action, there is a fear the disease, instead of being contained in sheep, will spread and become airborne," said deputy chief veterinary officer Richard Cawthorne.

In all, the extended slaughter program will involve about 300,000 animals, on top of the 241,000 livestock already either slaughtered or earmarked for slaughter.

Foot-and-mouth disease is not normally harmful to humans but induces influenza-like symptoms in livestock, making them impossible to sell.

Radical lobby group Farmers For Action stepped up the rhetoric on Saturday, accusing the government of ordering the extra slaughter for short-term political gain.

"We still feel that this cull is basically a gimmick by the government for an election in May at all costs," said spokesperson Andrew Spence. "This decision to kill healthy animals was made on political grounds."

Prime Minister Tony Blair is thought to want to hold an election on May 3, but there are fears that if the outbreak is not nipped in the bud, the vote will have to be postponed.

There is still only one confirmed case of foot-and-mouth outside the United Kingdom, on a farm in the Mayenne region of northwestern France. Northern Ireland has one case but the Irish Republic is free of the disease. *AFP*

FIRST AND FOREMOST
SINCE 1988
COFTA
ORIGINAL
MONOBLOC
IMITATED NEVER EQUALLED

A Class Above the Rest
SUPREME QUALITY THROUGH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY.

The revolutionary and popular
ALL-PURPOSE CONSTRUCTION PANEL
that is taking Europe and the rest of the world by storm
is now available in the Philippines at reasonable prices!

PRE-COLORED WATERPROOF CHEMICAL RESISTANT
VERSABOARD
WALL & CEILING PANELS AND CONNECTORS
TODAY'S COMPLETE WALL & CEILING INSTALLATION SYSTEM

"IT'S A RIGID CELLULAR BOARD: BETTER THAN PLYWOOD."

TERMITE-PROOF. FIRE-PROOF. SMOOTH FINISH. NO PAINTING OR PUTTY REQUIRED. USER FRIENDLY. LOOKS, FEELS & INSTALLS JUST LIKE PLYWOOD USING ORDINARY CONSTRUCTION TOOLS. SAW, SCREW OR NAIL. EVEN BOND USING ORDINARY PVC CEMENT.

STANDARD PANEL LENGTHS AND WIDTHS
4' X 8' and 4' X 10'
PANEL DESIGNS, COLORS AND THICKNESS
WHITE, GRAY & BEIGE:
1.5mm, 3mm, 4mm, 5mm, 6mm, 7mm, 8mm, 9mm, 10mm, 12mm, 18mm, 19 mm and 22mm thick
PINE, STONE GRAY & OAK GRAY:
3mm, 4mm, and 5mm thick

MOLDED CONNECTORS (WITH PANELS POSITIONED)
OUTSIDE CORNER CONNECTOR
INSIDE CORNER CONNECTOR
BUTT JOINT CAP
STRAIGHT JOINT CONNECTOR
BASEBOARD with soft vinyl dust seal that keeps dust out.
END CAP

Manufactured by Cofta Mouldings Corporation
No.3 LBICA Compound, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City,
Metro Manila, Phil. Tel: 443-5792 to 94, 983-8639 to 40

Apologies from the Chairman

GERMED GERMED PHARMA CORPORATION

Dear Valued Customer,

Word about our product, EXOFAT Premium Lipid Absorber (Regular and Double Strength Formulation) must have spread like wildfire because I was informed that due to a tremendous number of calls to our EXOFAT Advantage Hotline, a severe clogging in our telecommunication system took place. Sadly, we were not able to accommodate a vast number of inquiries about EXOFAT. In behalf of the company, I deeply apologize for this.

Allow me, therefore, to answer your most common questions about EXOFAT.

YES. EXOFAT, a product of the latest scientific formulation from Europe, comes in two variations: EXOFAT Forte Double Strength, which caters to mild to severe overweight individuals, and EXOFAT Regular Strength for weight maintenance.

YES. EXOFAT is currently the safest, all natural approach to effective weight loss management. It consists of a double action formulation that works in two ways: Liphosan, a special marine fiber that instantly absorbs fat upon contact made possible through positive and negative charge reaction, and Oligofructose, a special component that keeps the good bacteria alive promoting overall digestive health.

NO. EXOFAT has no harmful or embarrassing side effects. No discomfort experienced from oily spotting, diarrhea or flatulence. You need not worry of any possible side effects experienced from other prescription-based, synthetic diet pills as EXOFAT is non-systemic or does not affect any of the body's other organs or systems.

YES. You don't need a prescription. EXOFAT is an over the counter product and BFAD approved.

Sorry, EXOFAT does not work on carbohydrates or sugar. Always remember that it exerts its action on unwanted fats alone, so that does not mean you are free to splurge on pastries and pasta.

YES. It really works. Its effectiveness is further maximized when you complement its intake with a nutritionally balanced diet and active lifestyle. Just 2 tablets, at least fifteen minutes before each meal is the recommended dosage. What makes EXOFAT a completely different product is that you can adjust the number of tablet intake to the amount of fat present in your meal. The more grams of Liphosan, the more fats it can carry and dispose of from the body.

We also urge the public to drink at least 8 glasses of water per day as recommended by daily nutritional guidelines.

Finally, let me assure you that my company, Germed Pharma Corporation, is committed to providing you with scientific-based products of only the highest quality and service.

Let EXOFAT be a complementary product to improve your well being and lifestyle.

Sincerely Yours,

W.

Wolfgang O. Roehr
Chairman
Germed Pharma Corporation

16th Floor, Orient Square Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Telephone nos. 638-1691 to 93 • Fax no. 638-8958 • Toll Free 1-800-1-888-8648
Visit our website at: www.germed.com or e-mail: germed@surfshop.net.ph

EXOFAT® Forte & EXOFAT® Regular Strength are available in all leading drugstores nationwide.

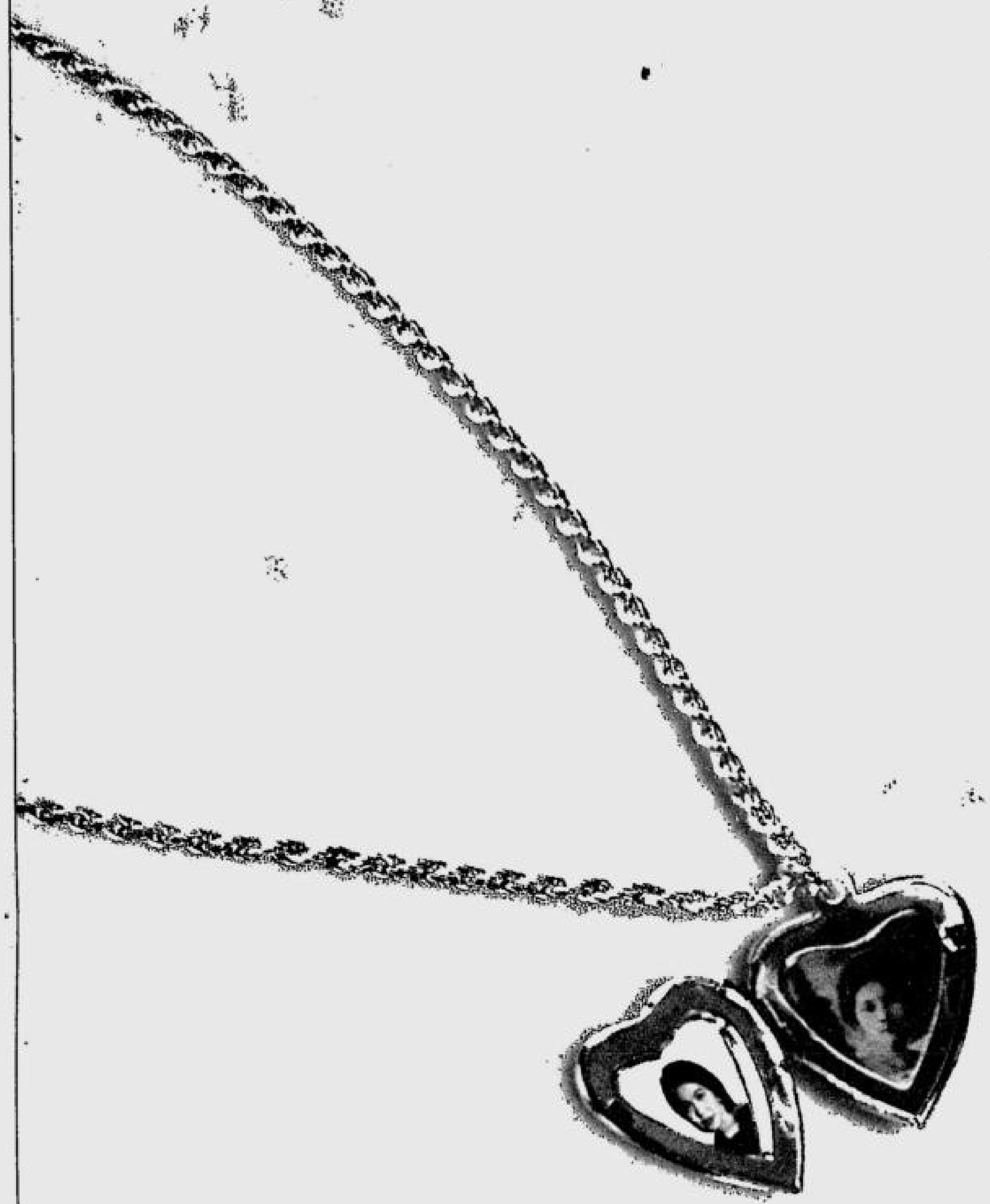
BFAD Approved, FR-23598

If you want to know more about EXOFAT,® call the EXOFAT® Advantage Team at these hotlines: (02) 638-1691 to 93. Or call toll-free 1-800-1888-8648. E-mail: exofat@germed.com.ph

"Photographs and memories all the love you gave to me.
Somehow it just can't be true, that's all I've left of you."

Jim Croce, Photographs and Memories

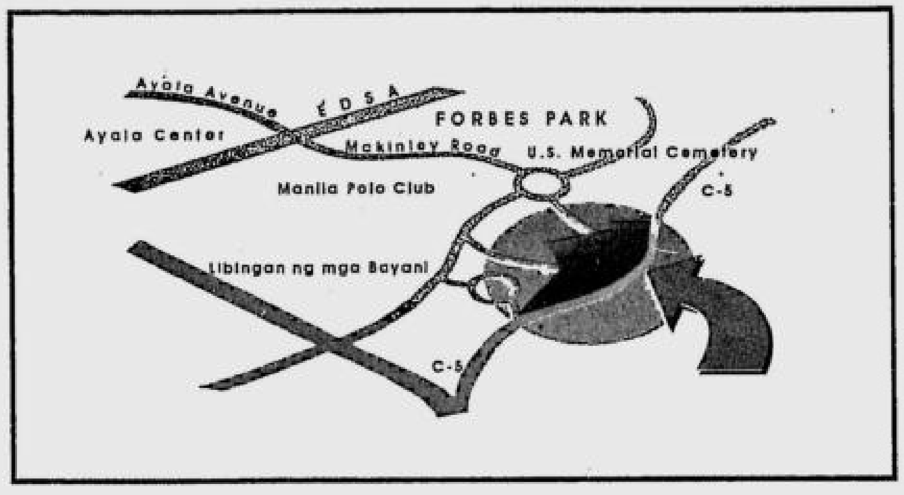
For people we will never forget, a sanctuary of loving remembrance.



The Heritage Park at Fort Bonifacio.
There's nothing quite like it in the country today. By sheer size, over 76 hectares, prime location, design and more importantly management, nothing comes close.

The Heritage Park is now open. Ready to help you make that important decision for your family's memorial investment or relocation.
Make The Heritage Park your loving gesture of respect and reverence for the people you love and will never forget.

For more details call: 845-2340 to 42, 845-2471 to 72


Ayala Avenue
EDSA
Ayala Center
FORBES PARK
Makinley Road
U.S. Memorial Cemetery
Manila Polo Club
C-5
Libingan ng mga Bayani
C-5

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
A sanctuary of loving remembrance.

A project of:
Bases Conversion Development Authority
LMO Building, The Heritage Park, Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio (near C5),
Lower Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila
HLURB License to Sell No. 02051

This advertisement is approved and authorized by the Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) on March 8, 2001.

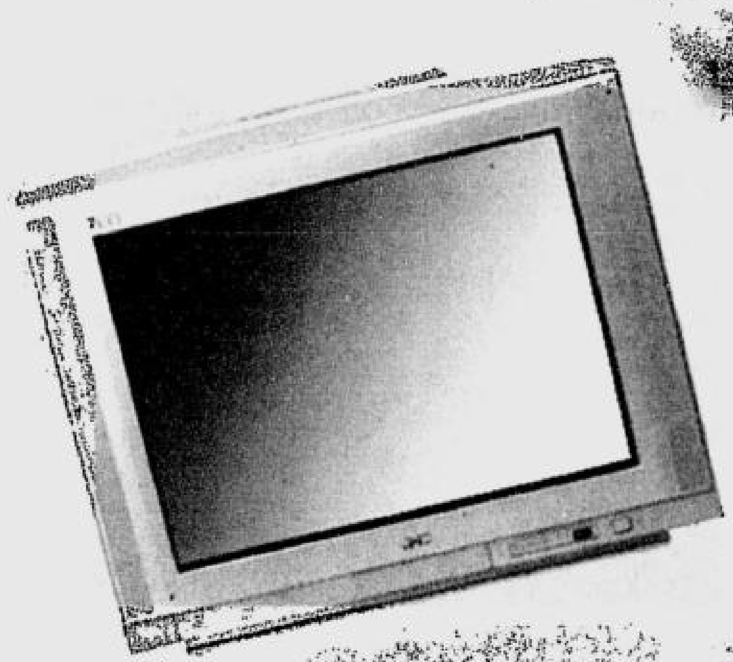
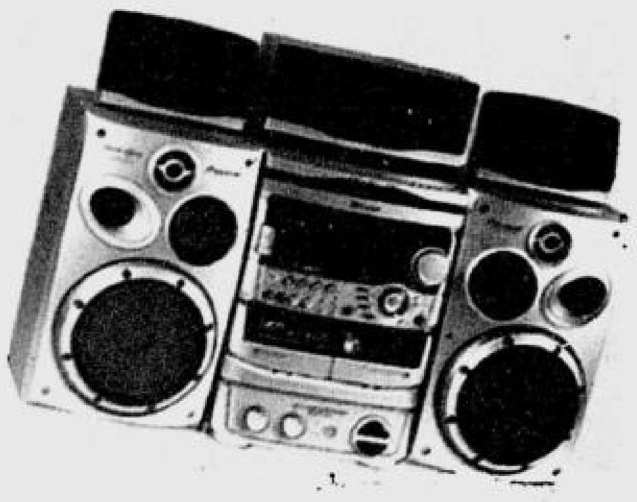
CITIBANK

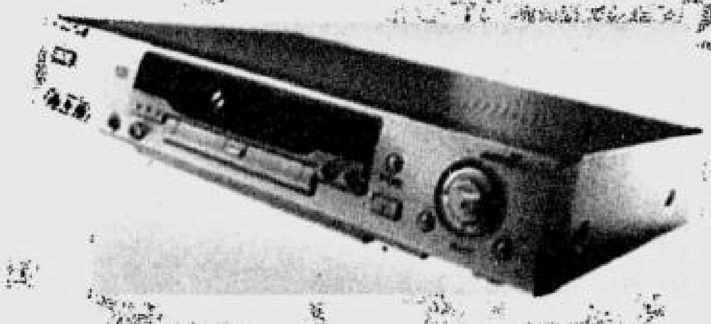
SM Appliance Center

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN
THE LONGER, THE LIGHTER

APPLIANCE
FIESTA

as low as 0% interest on installment rates!



Come to the SM Megatrade Hall 3,
5/F SM Megamall Building B from March 21 to April 8, 2001
and enjoy as low as 0% interest when you PayLite your purchases.
Rush to the **Appliance Fiesta** TODAY!

JVC Whirlpool Pioneer 3D PANASONIC Carrier SONY AMERICAN HOME DAEWOO
ELBA New Generation CONDURA Refrigerators Kelvinator Magic Chef YORK Air Conditioning ARISTON koppel Fisher&Paykel
LG KOLIN aiwa PHILIPS La GERMANIA [illegible] Canon FEDDERS VIRTUAL ASIA INTERNET SAMSUNG
SANYO uni-air UNION Tecnogas POLYTRON CASIO GENESIS COMPUTER SYSTEM

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1650-A3-005 Series of 2000

Macedonians, Yugoslavs fight Albanian rebels

TETOVO, Macedonia—Macedonian forces stepped up their battle against Albanian rebels Saturday as a Nato-brokered truce between another group of Albanian separatists and Yugoslav forces crumbled in neighboring Serbia.

The flare-up in violence across the region came as the UN's Balkans rights envoy, Jiri Dienstbier, warned that "Greater Albania" nationalism threatened to start a new Balkans war.

On the outskirts of the northeastern Macedonian town of Tetovo, special police armed ,with mortars started to push back an estimated 200 gunmen after four days of heavy fighting that has left one civilian dead and at least 25 people injured.

Interior ministry spokesperson Stevo Pendarovski said paramilitary police had driven off a "large number" of militants occupying a strategic hilltop overlooking Tetovo and captured other fighters.

They also destroyed a rebel weapons dump, he said.

At least 2,000 people have fled Tetovo's fighting, many seeking shelter abroad, officials said.

Nato also evacuated 500 German troops from a Macedonian barracks in Tetovo after the rebels sprayed it with gunfire Friday. The German Army sent extra tanks and armored vehicles from a base in Kosovo to aid the evacuation.

The rebels say they are fighting to end Skopje's discrimation against the large ethnic Albanian minority, but the government accuses them of trying destroy the country, saying they are mostly Kosovo Albanians seeking to extend the Yugoslav province's borders.

Skopje has said it is willing to introduce reforms to improve the Albanians' lot, and Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said he was considering expanding his coalition government to include a second Albanian party. But the government refuses to talk to what it terms "terrorists." *AFP*

Activists rally for freedom

TAIPEI—More than 5,000 pro-independence advocates Sunday rallied in support of President Chen Shui-bian, whose former outspoken backing of Taiwanese independence angered Beijing.

The demonstrators waved red and green flags with a silhouette of Taiwan, symbolizing independence for the island.

"Every Taiwanese around the world should stand up and be counted," one banner read as the demonstrators marched through the streets of the capital, Taipei.

Although the protesters carefully avoided calling for outright independence, they sang and danced, rallying support for Chen in the local Taiwanese dialect instead of Mandarin Chinese—the official language of both China and Taiwan.

The crowd thinned out quickly, and by late Sunday only a small group outside the presidential palace watched amateur musicians perform music that reflected Taiwan's indigenous culture, instead of the island's historical ties with mainland China.

Since assuming office in May last year, Chen has had difficulty forging a consensus among the small group of hardline pro-independence advocates and those who support China's view of eventual reunification. *AFP*

e-mail
Panasonic

Instant e-mail access.
With your existing ISP. Send and receive e-mails on the go, even without your PC.

4-COLOR BACKLIGHT. Not one, but four! Group your callers by color. Now you know who's calling even in the dark!

LIGHTWEIGHT AT 77 GRAMS ONLY. Carries everything you need except the bulk.

ONE-TOUCH CONVERSATION RECORDER. Eureka! Record that idea. Also, records conversation that matters.

ONE-TOUCH HANDSFREE SPEAKERPHONE. Now driving is safer. Even colleagues with you can join in and talk.

- One-touch Vibration Alert
- Lithium-ion battery included

Panasonic One-touch Features Access
One-touch instant convenience.
GD92

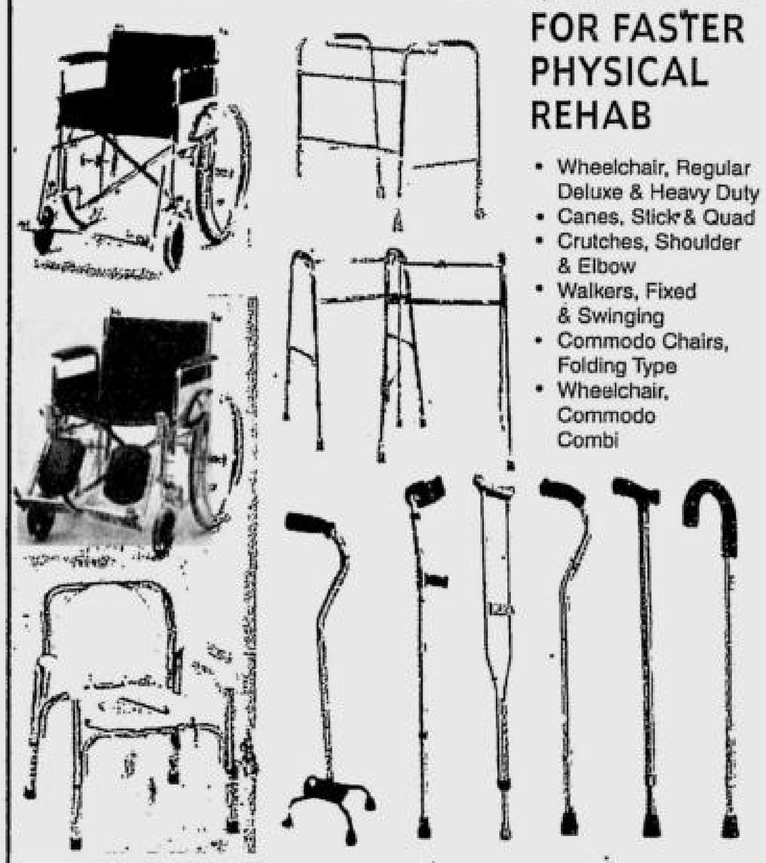
Panasonic Exhibits:
- Ongoing up to March 9 Alabang Town Center (Madrigal Entrance)
- Feb. 27 - March 26 Lower Ground Floor, SM Cebu
- March 1 - 14 Upper Ground Level Bldg. B, SM Megamall
- March 12 - 25 Ground Level, Park Square Makati

Panasonic

WIRELESS at SM

Megamall	5th Floor
Centerpoint	3rd Floor
Southmall	Ground Floor
Manila	4th Floor
Bacoor	3rd Floor
Cebu	3rd Floor

For wholesale, please call 638-1111 or 893-1788



MOBILITY AIDS
FOR FASTER PHYSICAL REHAB
- Wheelchair, Regular Deluxe & Heavy Duty
- Canes, Stick & Quad
- Crutches, Shoulder & Elbow
- Walkers, Fixed & Swinging
- Commodo Chairs, Folding Type
- Wheelchair, Commodo Combi

Exclusively distributed by
medical center trading corporation
Available at mercury drug stores nationwide

AWZ 126
AWM 243

Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES
BRINGS QUALITY TO LIFE

The Whirlpool Washer Balances a Whirlpool woman's life like magic.

Balance. This is what a Whirlpool woman wants. Between being an active career woman and a busy homemaker, this seems almost impossible. But with Whirlpool's line of world-class home partners, balance happens in the Whirlpool woman's life like magic. Such are the features of the ***fully-automatic*** Whirlpool washers, like the ***AWM 243***, that makes washing clothes so much easier. With a ***front loading*** feature for ultra-ease that also comes with a ***child safety lock*** for utmost security. Plus a revolutionary ***built-in heater*** and an ***adjustable temperature control***, so water can be set to hot or cold, depending on the type of fabric to be washed. And with a ***specialized dispenser for detergent, fabric softener, and bleach***, laundry can be left in the washer for an effective cleaning all on its own. That's Whirlpool convenience for you!

The ***Whirlpool AWM 243 Washer*** and the Whirlpool woman. Partners that truly bring magic into the home.

Visit or call us!
MANILA : 22 D.Tuazon St., Quezon City • Tel. No. 732-7370 • Fax. No. 732-7375
MAKATI : 3rd Level, Glorietta 4 (inside Automatic Center), Makati City • Tel. Nos. 729-6450 to 52
CEBU : Lot 3 Block 5 Mandaue North Central, Castilex Compound, Cabancalan, Mandaue City, Cebu • Tel. No. (032) 345-3105
WHIRLPOOL PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING STORES NATIONWIDE.

For space-saving convenience, the AWM 243 washer can be stacked with the AWZ 126 dryer using accessory AMH 542.

NO GLOBAL FORUM

ACTIVISTS IN NAPLES REUTERS

Thousands of anti-globalization activists clashed with police during a protest at a global forum on Internet technology in government in the southern city of Naples, March 17. Clashes against Third Global Forum left 50 police and 70 protesters with minor injuries, police said.

Egyptian stabs Japanese woman near pyramids

GIZA PYRAMIDS, Egypt—A Japanese woman living in Egypt was stabbed and slightly injured by an Egyptian in a botched robbery attempt near the ancient pyramids at Giza outside Cairo Saturday, the police and doctors said.

Her assailant, a 28-year-old barber from Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria, was shot and seriously wounded by police before being taken to the nearby Pyramids Hospital where he was interrogated by police.

The woman, who was visiting the pyramids with her British husband, was stabbed once in the stomach and once in the back with a penknife.

She was also taken to the Pyramids Hospital, where deputy manager Sherin Fuad said her injuries were "just superficial, with wounds in the abdomen and in the back of the chest wall on the left side."

"They are not penetrating wounds, and she will get plastic surgery in the operating room," Fuad added. He later said she had been taken to Salam Hospital in the Maadi suburb of Cairo, where the couple lives.

Fuad said the woman was 37 years old and married to an employee of the BP Amoco oil company in Cairo, with the two having lived in Egypt for the past six months.

Japanese diplomats said she had asked for her name not to be published by the press.

The assailant, Mohammed Shehata, had attempted to rob her with a penknife by the 4,500-year-old Chephren pyramid, the middle of the three Giza pyramids, an interior ministry statement said broadcast on state television.

As he fled, he set off several firecrackers and stabbed and slightly wounded a police officer who was pursuing him.

Police fired on him, leaving him with bullet wounds to the shoulder and leg as well as cuts to the face, emergency ward manager Ahmed Hassanein said, adding that he was in a "coma" when he arrived at the hospital.

Shehata was seen lying on a bed in the same hospital as his victim, covered from head to toe by a blood-stained sheet, with doctors and police inspecting the wounds on his body.

The deputy hospital manager said the attacker had later woken up and had been interrogated by police.

"He's OK now. The police have been asking him questions, but he didn't say anything," Fuad said, adding that he was about to operate on him.

He said Shehata had tried to steal the Japanese woman's camera.

By the pyramids, tourists expressed alarm over the stabbing.

"This won't be good for Egypt's publicity," said a middle-aged tourist from the United States on vacation with his wife.

It was the second criminal incident in a week involving foreigners in Egypt.

On Thursday, an Egyptian tour guide in the southern tourist town of Luxor freed four German tourists he had held hostage since Monday night in an attempt to swap them for his two sons, taken to Europe by his estranged German wife.

One tourist who had just arrived in Egypt, Catherine Hunter from London, said the incidents would give her parents something to worry about, but was otherwise unconcerned about her safety in Egypt.

"London's dangerous enough with all the IRA (Irish Republican Army) bombs, so I'm not worried about one small incident in Egypt," she said. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Freed hijack hostages return home

MOSCOW—Some 170 freed hostages returned home to tearful welcomes in Moscow and Istanbul on Saturday, a day after commandos stormed their hijacked Russian airliner in Saudi Arabia. Looking pale and tired, 121 passengers and crew who were aboard the hijacked plane were greeted at Moscow's Vnukovo airport by groups of anxious relatives, who hugged and kissed them and gave them flowers. "It was very scary. When (the hijackers) were trying to hack down the cockpit door we were saying goodbye to our lives," one woman passenger tearfully told Russia's NTV television. "I can only say thank God we're here and the worst is behind us...we've all been through too much," another woman said. *Reuters*

15 killed in fresh Aceh fight

JAKARTA—Fresh fighting between rebels and security forces has left at least 15 people dead in Indonesia's Aceh province, police and human rights workers said Sunday. Local police chief Lt. Col. Said Huseini said officers shot three rebels to death on Saturday on the outskirts of the provincial capital Banda Aceh while a civilian was also killed by cross fire in a separate gunfight nearby. Human rights workers said the bodies of four villagers were found also on Saturday in southern Aceh, about 1,750 km northwest of Jakarta. The victims appeared to have been shot dead. *AP*

Car bomb kills cop in Spain

ROSAS, Spain—A car bomb exploded in a residential area of this tourist resort on Spain's Costa Brava late Saturday killing a policeman and lightly wounding three other people, Catalan regional police said. Catalan Interior Minister Xavier Pomes went to the scene and said the attack was the work of the Basque separatist group ETA. The blast in the northeastern town close to the border with France happened at around 11 p.m., according to police. The bomb in a blue Ford Escort went off outside a hotel, killing policeman Santos Santamaria Avedano. Pomes said the policeman was about 100 meters away when the car packed with 20 kg of explosives blew up. *AFP*

16 killed in Angola plane crash

LUANDA, Angola—A small twin-engine plane slammed into a mountain in misty weather Saturday near the southern city of Lubango, killing all but one of 17 people on board, officials said. A 25-year-old Angolan passenger survived the crash, which took place around 10 a.m. as the plane was preparing to land in Lubango in the southwestern province of Huila, the Angolan charter company Sociedade de Aviacao Ligeira said. The company disputed earlier reports that said the survivor was Swedish. Company officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there were foreigners on board. *AP*

Sharon, Bush meet for 1st time

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon leaves behind a volatile domestic security situation on Sunday to meet President George W. Bush in Washington for the first time since both took office. Sharon is also due to meet senior defense officials, US Jewish and congressional leaders and visit the United Nations as Palestinians' feelings run high over Israeli restrictions on their movement after almost six months of an uprising. Shin Bet security chief Avi Dichter met Palestinian intelligence chief Amin al-Hindi late on Saturday at Gaza's Erez crossing with Israel to discuss trying to reduce the level of violence, sources close to the meeting said. *Reuters*

GRAND EUROPEAN TOURS
BEST VALUE PACKAGES
OVER 100 CHOICE TOURS
TRAFALGAR'S
First Class • Fully Escorted • Cost Saver Tours
DISCOVER MORE OF THE WORLD FOR LESS!
Fly with Singapore Airlines from Manila or Cebu for only US$999 & enjoy 2 nights FREE in London* or any selected European cities! Add $50 for peak season rates
EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE
PARIS, LUCERNE, MILAN, ROME, FLORENCE, VENICE, INNSBRUCK, RHINELAND, AMSTERDAM
12 days from US $ 910
ENGLAND & SCOTLAND
STRATFORD, COVENTRY, CHESTER, GLASGOW, EDINBURG, DURHAM, YORK
6 days from US $ 495
ITALIAN DREAM
ROME, VENICE, VERONA, FLORENCE, ASSISSI
8 days from US $ 580
LONDON, PARIS & ROME
LONDON, PARIS & ROME (Moderate, Superior, Deluxe)
10 days from US $ 850
SCANDINAVIA, RUSSIA & INDEPENDENT STATES
ENGLAND, DENMARK, SWEDEN, FINLAND, RUSSIA, BELARUS, POLAND, GERMANY, BELGIUM, FRANCE
20 days from US $ 2,140
EUROPEAN HERITAGE
AMSTERDAM, RHINELAND, LUCERNE, LIECHTENSTEIN, INNSBRUCK, VIENNA, VENICE, ROME, FLORENCE, NICE, BARCELONA, MADRID, LOURDES, BORDEAUX, PARIS
24 days from US $ 1,675
Highlights of SPAIN, MOROCCO & PORTUGAL
MADRID, GRANADA, COSTA DEL SOL, FEZ, MARRAKESH, CASABLANCA, RABAR, TANGIER, SEVILLE, LISBON, FATIMA, SALAMANCA
16 days from US $ 975
For further inquiries, call or visit your travel agent or:
General Sales Agent - Philippines
pan·pacific TRAVEL CORPORATION
IATA PTAA MEMBER TO-243-2000
Ermita: Pacific Place Building, 539 Arquiza St., Ermita, Manila • Tels.: 536-1265, 536-1267, 526-6427, 523-1990
Makati: L/G I Herrera Tower Condominium, 98 Herrera cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City • Tels.: 810-8551 to 56
Binondo: 353 Nueva Street, Binondo • Tel.: 243-6666 connecting all departments • Fax.: 244-0311
Cebu: Diplomat Hotel, Suite 6, 90 F. Ramos Street, Cebu City • Tels.: 254-0343, 254-0347, 254-0349

PULMO AIDE
BREATHE EASY
by DeVilbiss USA
Clears air passages caused by ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, EMPHYSEMA and other respiratory disorders
MODEL 5650
5 YEAR WARRANTY
Free Delivery within Metro Manila
Pulmo-Aide is the only nebulizer that passed 2000-hour continuous operation.
Also Available:
Nebulizer Kit/Aerosol Mask for Adult & Pedia
Inlet Filter for Models 5650 & 3650
Distributed by medical center trading corporation
MAIN OFFICE Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Tels 631-1715, 631-9355, 637-9504 Fax No. (632) 631-7869
E-mail Address medcen@info.com.ph
Available at all mercury drug Stores nationwide.
Pasig Branch Tel 631-1715 | Manila Branch Tel 711-8374 | Cebu Branch Tel (032) 254-2367 | Davao Branch Tel (082) 222-4404 | Iloilo Branch Tel (033) 320-1413

FATIMA
Medical Science Foundation, Inc.
College of Medicine
Affiliated with Hospitals in the U.S.
* DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
* DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE
Application and Daily interviews are now going on for School Year 2001-2002
SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS
• ALL COURSES: Free tuition fees & miscellaneous fees.
• COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND DENTAL MEDICINE: Free tuition fees & miscellaneous fees, Free board & Lodging, Free books, Free airfare and pocket money for its clerkship program.
Fatima College of Medicine
120 Mac Arthur Highway, Valenzuela City
291-6556•291-6504•293-2703(06) loc.113/130•444-5939

"Now my potent vitamin C is also SUGAR-FREE"
Now you have two POTEN-CEE tablets to choose from!
For people with diabetes, heart ailment, or those who simply can't have sugar in their diet, here's good news!
You can now get "POTEN-CEE Sugar-Free" tablet!
It's all the Vitamin C you need everyday without the sugar.
SUGAR-FREE
CANDY-COATED
ASCORBIC ACID
POTEN-CEE®
Stay healthy. Take Poten-Cee daily.
Pascual Laboratories, Inc. CONSUMER HEALTHCARE
For inquiries call the Pascual Consumer Healthcare Hotline 9269451

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

2 nabbed for selling baby girl

BAGUIO CITY—Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation arrested two women here for selling a year-old child for P15,000 on Wednesday.

The agents and personnel of the Department of Social Welfare and Development arrested Cheryl Abanador, 24, and Ester Suyap, 58, both of Barangay Fairview here, in an entrapment operation at the Burnham Park.

Abanador claimed she is the child's mother.

The women were arrested while receiving marked money from a DSWD employee, who posed as the baby's buyer.

Suyap reportedly brokered the deal, although she told the NBI agents that she only helped Abanador find a family who would adopt her child.

"(Abanador) asked me to find someone who will adopt her baby. She told me that she has goiter and has a cyst in the breast. She also told me that she could not raise the child anymore as she is sick and jobless," Suyap claimed. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

'People power' tapped against Bt-corn testing

KORONADAL CITY—"People power" against the field testing of genetically engineered crops?

Environmental activists and farmers' organizations from various towns of South Cotabato yesterday vowed to launch protest actions to stop multinational companies from pursuing their field testing of a genetically engineered corn in the province.

The Samahan ng mga Magsasaka sa Timog Kutabato (Samatiku), composed of 14 peoples' organizations and farmers' cooperatives, and religious and sectoral groups, vowed to mobilize residents here and in the other towns against the field-testing of Bt-corn.

The group, through the Philippine Greens, a broad coalition of NGOs opposing genetically modified organism (GMO) tests, and the Justice and Peace Desk of the Diocese of Marbel have been lobbying before local government units to block the GMO tests.

Elezer Billanes, Samatiku secretary general, said his group would not allow the conduct of any field testing in the province. He vowed to lead a local version of "People Power" should the multinational firms pursue the Bt-corn testing.

Two multinational seed companies, Monsanto Philippines and Pioneer Hybrid Seeds, have proposed to conduct more field tests in the province for Bt-corn, a genetically altered crop containing *Bacillus thuringensis*.

They are keen on at least six areas to test Bt-corn's effectiveness and suitability to local soil and climate.

The proposed areas are Barangays Topland and Paraiso in this city, Reyes in Banga, Cebuano and Bolol Mala in Tupi, and Maltana in Tampakan.

Pioneer already has an ongoing Bt-corn field testing in Barangay Glamang, Polomolok. The project is the subject of a court case filed by concerned farmers in the area.

Despite the protests, the South Cotabato Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council (SCPAFC) wanted the field-testing to continue.

In a resolution endorsed by the Koronadal City Agriculture and Fishery Council, the SCPAFC members called on the Department of Agriculture to push through with the proposed testing of Pioneer Seeds and Monsanto.

According to the council, corn farmers have been incurring heavy losses due to corn borer infestation and have largely depended on pesticide application. *Allen V. Estabillo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Police checkpoints put up in Bicol

LEGAZPI CITY—In an effort to stem violence during the May elections, the regional police have set up checkpoints to ensure that no one, including soldiers and policemen, will carry firearms without gun ban exemptions from the Commission on Elections.

Policemen manning the checkpoints would follow the Comelec guidelines on checkpoints contained in Resolution No. 3420 which was issued on Dec. 21 last year, said Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro Jr., regional police chief.

Navarro reminded lawmen about the proper search and seizure procedures, guidelines on the placing of sign boards, team composition, location and time of deployment, among others, so that civil, political and human rights are not violated.

The checkpoints are meant to ensure peaceful and orderly elections in May, he said.

Comelec regional director Zacarias Zaragosa said his office would be particularly concerned with the carrying of firearms and politically motivated acts of violence affecting the election process.

Zaragosa directed the Philippine National Police to closely monitor the 426 villages considered election "hot spots" in the region.

Past poll campaign activities in Masbate province had been marred by violence allegedly committed by candidates, their followers, supporters and insurgents.

Records showed that at least 45 election-related incidents were reported in the province in the 1998 elections.

Navarro said he would send a company-size police unit from the Regional Mobile Group to augment the police force in Masbate.

Col. Dante Bonifacio, head of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade in Villahermosa, Daraga, Albay, said he would deploy a battalion of soldiers in various villages in Masbate.

Bonifacio said the communist New People's Army might take advantage of the political situation by spreading terrorism and liquidation to destabilize the government. *Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Boy killed in fire

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—A 3-year-old boy was killed while his 77-year-old father was hurt during a fire that gutted their house in Barangay Sta. Rita here on Friday. Killed in the hour-long fire was Joseph Papiller, 3, adopted son of lawyer Ponciano Papiller. Reports said the boy's body was recovered from a room where stacks of foams and pillowcases are kept. Investigators said the family was involved in the manufacture of pillows and pillowcases.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wanted man falls

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Police arrested the most wanted man in Cagayan Valley during an operation in Sual town on Sunday. Chief Insp. Harris Fama, head of the 102nd unit of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said murder suspect Leoncio Navalta Jr., 42, did not resist arrest when policemen raided his relative's house in Barangay Paitan West in Sual. Navalta, who has a P200,000 reward on his head, has standing warrants of arrest for murder in February 2000, double murder in July 1999, homicide in January 1998, frustrated murder in February 1992 and multiple murder and frustrated homicide. *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Reporter robbed

BAGUIO CITY—A radio reporter was robbed while she was reporting live on air. Reports said Bombo Radyo reporter Joan Mayugao was airing her report about 5:30 a.m. Monday near her house in Tam-awan Village here when two holdup men in a taxicab stopped and pointed a gun at her. Mayugao screamed and was cut off the air. The holdup men took Mayugao's VHF radio worth P23,000, her tape recorder, ATM cards, her wallet and P300 in cash. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

2 killed in collision

MARILAO, Bulacan—Two persons were killed Tuesday after their truck hit another truck on the southbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway in Barangay Patibig here. Police identified the fatalities as Ronaldo Bolos, 34, and Remedios Rivero, 50. They died instantly after their Isuzu cargo truck smashed into another truck. Reports said a trailer truck traveling ahead of the victims' truck suddenly stopped, causing the collision. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Life term for rapist

BAGUIO CITY—A judge sentenced a taxi driver to life imprisonment for raping a 22-year-old nursing graduate in March 1999. Judge Ruben Ayson of the regional trial court here also ordered Jacob Benos, 20, to pay the victim's family P50,000 in damages. The victim said Benos raped her inside his taxicab at about 1 a.m. on March 22, 1999. *Daphne Marie Falag-ey and Rodolfo Nicolas Loterte, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Appointment hailed

TAGUDIN, Ilocos Sur—Residents and officials here hailed the appointment of their townmate, Lt. Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, commanding general of the Philippine Army, as the new Armed Forces Chief of Staff. Mayor Jose Bunoan Jr. said Villanueva deserved the post, citing his integrity and competence. "General Villanueva is battle-tested, well-respected and principled officer and gentleman," Bunoan said. Villanueva, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1968, is a native of Barangay Becques here. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloucy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country wil be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 36° Lo 23°	Baguio HI 27° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 34° Lo 23°	Laoag HI 34° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 35° Lo 23°	Tagaytay HI 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi HI 32° Lo 25°	Calapan HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 32° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 32° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 33° Lo 24°	Tacloban HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 23°	Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 24°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 22°	Davao HI 33° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

Northern Luzon Bureau
Central Luzon Desk
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail:
inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St.,
Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346 / 233-0349
Fax No: (032) 232-9938
E-mail:
pdivis@skyinet.net

Southern Luzon Bureau
Barangay 34 (Oro site),
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 480-8099
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail:
inq_bicol@inquirer.com .ph

Mindanao Bureau
479-c General Luna St.,
Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 221-7122
Fax No. (082) 227-6723
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Study in the USA

BRING DOCUMENTS AND MEET WITH UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS OFFICERS

IMMEDIATE ACCEPTANCE CONFIRMED IF QUALIFIED

Accounting, Advertising, Architecture, Art, Aviation, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communications, Computer Science, Education, Engineering (Computer, Electrical) Environment, Fashion, Finance, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Health, Hotel Mgmt., Int'l Studies, Med Tech, MIS, Marketing, Music, Nursing, Pharmacy, Photography, Political Science, Pre-Med, Psychology, Sociology, Theatre Arts, Travel .....And MANY MORE Fields of Study including MBA, MA, MS, MEd
Women's Colleges too.

Universities in: Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Mass., Minnesota Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia

ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR - EXHIBITION
At: The AIM ACCEED Conference Center
Opposite Greenbelt, Paseo de Roxas, Makati

* How to choose the right university for you and make an application
* How to get maximum transfer credits, gain acceptance & admission
* Info on financial aid/employment * Limited scholarships * Student Visa Info.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21 6:00pm - 9:00pm SEMINAR & EXHIBIT
Scholarship & Financial Information ONLY at 6:00pm SHARP!
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 11:00am - 4:00pm INTERVIEWS & EXHIBIT
There is still time to be accepted for September 2001

Call Inter-Ed NOW on 819-1001/02 or e-mail intered@info.com.ph for reservations

TODAY'S STANDARD in materials handling.

For storage, transport and deliveries.
The Choice of leading retail/wholesale chains, multinational warehousing firms,supermarkets, groceries and department stores nationwide.

FOR HEAVY DYNAMIC LOADS
LOADMASTER
Monobloc Plastic Pallets

COFTA ORIGINAL
ISO-9002 Certified

FOR NORMAL DYNAMIC LOADS
POWER Monobloc Plastic Pallets

Keeps your goods high and dry. Maintenance free! Resistant to rust, oil, water, open sunlight, insect infestation and decay. Even freezing temperatures of -10 degrees Celsius and below.

FOR FORKLIFTS AND FOR HAND PALLET TRUCKS

Introducing New and Improved:
COFTA ECR PLASTIC PALLET
Now with 4 way entry for hand pallet trucks of all dimensions.
(UP TO 27" PALLET TRUCK FORK WIDTH.)

40"x 48" x 5.7" 4-WAY CLOSED
1 x 1.2 x 0.145 Mtr.
5.7" THICK 40" WIDTH 48" LENGTH
FOR MAXIMUM 27" (HAND PALLET TRUCK) FORK WIDTH

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	1000 kgs.	1500 kgs.
STATIC LOAD	3000 kgs.	3000 kgs.
1-99 PIECES	P885/pc.	P 1100/ pc.
100 PIECES & UP	P825/pc.	P 1025/ pc.

40"x 48" x 5.7" 2-WAY OPEN
1 x 1.2 x 0.145 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	750 kgs	1000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	2000 kgs	2000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 750	P 945
100 PIECES & UP	P 700	P 885

40"x 48" x 5.7" 4-WAY CLOSED
1 x 1.2 x 0.145 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	750 kgs	1000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	2000 kgs	2000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 810	P 1010
100 PIECES & UP	P 755	P 945

40"x 48" x 7" 2-WAY OPEN
1 x 1.2 x 0.180 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	1250 kgs	2000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	4000 kgs	4000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 1080	P 1320
100 PIECES & UP	P 1010	P 1235

40"x 48" x 7" 4-WAY CLOSED
1 x 1.2 x 0.180 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	1500 kgs	2000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	4000 kgs	4000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 1135	P 1400
100 PIECES & UP	P 1060	P 1305

48"x 48" x 7" 4-WAY OPEN
1.2 x 1.2 x 0.180 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	1250 kgs	2000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	6000 kgs	6000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 1415	P 1775
100 PIECES & UP	P 1320	P 1655

48"x 48" x 7" 2-WAY OPEN
1.2 x 1.2 x 0.180 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	1500 kgs	2500 kgs
STATIC LOAD	6000 kgs	6000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 1515	P 1890
100 PIECES & UP	P 1415	P 1765

48"x 48" x 7" 4-WAY CLOSED
1.2 x 1.2 x 0.180 Mtr.

	POWER PALLETS	LOADMASTER
DYNAMIC LOAD	2000 kgs	3000 kgs
STATIC LOAD	6000 kgs	6000 kgs
1-99 PIECES	P 1615	P 2015
100 PIECES & UP	P 1510	P 1885

*Prices quoted above are FOB Manila and are subject to change without prior notice.

Mfd. by Cofta Mouldings Corp. Tels: 443-5792 to 94, 983-8639 to 40

AUTHORIZED DEALERS
LIANA TRADING - Binondo 241-6701 to 04, 242-8089, 242-8090
SIMCO TRADERS - Binondo 241-7984 241-7993
ALL PARTS INDUSTRIAL - Binondo 241-2622, 242-3724
LIANA TRADING - Paco 564-5083 561-0569
DURALEX COMM'L - Divisoria 241-9452 243-3107
UPS ELECTR'L & HARDWARE-Pasay 510-6983 831-0103
CHAIRMAN MARKETING-San Juan 724-8808 724-0907
TOTAL ENTERPRISES - Quezon City 927-4422 927-5225
DYSIONG MARKETING - Caloocan 749-3741
SUPER POWER METALWOOD - Caloocan 983-5991 to 94
AFFLANCE INTL. Mabolo, Cebu City 032 - 255-1895
CEBU PROGRESS COMM'L - Colon, Cebu 256-0844 to 46 - Reclamation, Cebu 232-2127, 412-0232

kaz.

Makers of Innovative Healthcare Products

Vicks Digital Thermometer
Vicks Personal Steam Inhaler
kaz Steam Vaporizer 1.2 gallons
Vicks Steam Vaporizer 1.5 gallons
kaz Steam Facial
kaz Evaporative Humidifier

Exclusively Distributed by
Medical Center Trading Corp.
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715 • 631-9355 • 637-0544
Fax (0632) 631-7869 • E-mail medcen@info.com.ph

Available at Selected
mercury drug
Stores Nationwide

MANILA BRANCH 711 8174
PASIG BRANCH 631 1715
LIPA BRANCH (043) 757 2051
CEBU BRANCH (032) 254-2367
ILOILO BRANCH (033) 320-1413
DAVAO BRANCH (082) 222-4434

San Sebastian College-Recoletos
C.M. RECTO AVE., MANILA
INSTITUTE OF LAW
IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICANTS FOR REGULAR BAR REVIEW
FOR THE 2001 EXAMINATIONS
THE REVIEW WILL START ON APRIL 18, 2001

POLITICAL LAW	Prof. Edwin Sandoval Prof. Antonio Tupaz
LABOR AND SOCIAL LEGISLATION	Prof. Oswald Lorenzo Prof. Domingo Disini
CIVIL LAW	Justice Alicia Sempio-Diy Prof. Eduardo Labitag Prof. Rolando Reyes Prof. Willard Riano Prof. Ramon Casanova
TAXATION LAW	Prof. Abelardo Domondon Prof. Francisco Sababan
COMMERCIAL LAW	Dean Arturo E.Balbastro
CRIMINAL LAW	Justice Edilberto Sandoval Judge Maria Cristina Cornejo
REMEDIAL LAW	Dean Arturo E. Balbastro Prof. Abraham Espejo Judge Pedro Laggui
LEGAL ETHICS	Prof. Prudencio Valencia
BAR REVIEW METHODS	Prof. Abelardo Domondon

ARTURO E. BALBASTRO
Dean/Bar Review Director

SADIRI R. DALIVA
Asst. Bar Review Director

INCLUDES COMPLETE REVIEW HAND-OUTS
Schedules of Review
Monday-Friday
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m
Saturday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
RESERVATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED
For more details, please call review center at
Tel. Nos. 7348931-39 loc. 312 & 314 D.L. 7345377

Hazed PMA cadet buried in Tarlac

CAMILING, Tarlac—Cadet Fourth Class Edward Domingo, the Philippine Military Academy cadet who died from hazing on March 10 at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, was buried at noon yesterday after being given military honors and three-gun salutes.

Hundreds of Domingo's friends, relatives, neighbors and former teachers in elementary and high school endured the scorching heat to bring him to his final resting place at the Camiling cemetery.

Five buses of PMA cadets from Baguio led by Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza Jr., PMA superintendent, joined the long line of Domingo's grieving relatives and friends through the town's narrow streets leading to the cemetery.

A band from the PMA also accompanied the funeral marchers.

Domingo died before midnight of March 10 after four upper class cadets beat him up in their room. The beating was supposedly done to congratulate Domingo and some other cadets for passing all their subjects this year.

Domingo died of cardio-respiratory arrest after he was hit in his solar plexus below the rib cage.

Murder charges and violations of the anti-hazing law have been filed against Domingo' alleged attackers—Cadets Third Class John Louie Ong, Willard Aperocho, Michael Perang and Omar Julius Labajo—before the Baguio prosecutor's office.

Domingo's mother Leonida collapsed during the Mass held inside an unfinished chapel beside the gutted Camiling Church. The century-old church was destroyed in a fire years ago and had not been used for church services since.

"*Sinusubukan niyang kayanin pero hindi niya makaya* (She was trying to overcome her grief and emotion but she failed)," a 23-year-old relative said.

Mrs. Domingo was taken by relatives to a van parked outside the chapel and was accompanied by her daughter Rowena and a niece while she was resting.

Edward's 12-year-old brother Ronald, for whom the late cadet bought a pair of shoes as a graduation gift, was also weakened by emotion and was asked to stay with his mother inside the van.

Residents spilled along the route of the funeral march, either out of curiosity or to pay their last respects to Domingo. *Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WHY BUY WHEN YOU CAN GET IT FOR
FREE!
StarOffice 5.2
word processor, web publisher,
spreadsheet, database and an organizer,
presentation graphics program,
3D graphic generator and animator
Plus! 50 other softwares
with One Year Internet Access
GET ONE NOW!
nsclub.net
Limited offer only
Unit 5 Parian Center Commonwealth Ave., Q.C.
Tel. # 454-2222, 951-4444, 951-5555, 951-7325 to 29, 931-9393
Available at all major computer shops and dealears in Metro Manila!
FRANCHISING AND DEALERSHIP INQUIRIES ACCEPTED

WIN THE ELECTION
ORDER NOW! GET AHEAD
Streamers
AS LOW AS ₱6.00
☑ Up to six (6) colors print.
☑ 50,000 pcs. a day output.
☑ All-weather, and easy to install.
N. R. TRADING & INDUSTRIES, INC,
Q.C. Office: (02) 911-5992 • (02) 911-5974 • (02) 911- 5945
MEYCAUAYAN Plant : (044) 840-7534 • (044) 695-3585
CELL PHONES: (0917) 817-7669 • (0917) 526-9030
(0917) 423-6146 • (0919) 574-1699

KOSTKA
School of Quezon City
A CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL
(Boys and Girls)
No. 289 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. PLDT 426-03-34; 426-49-11 & 13
Bayan Tel 433-35-61 & 62

KOSTKA SCHOOL OF MARIKINA CITY
A CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL (nursery, kindergarten & prep)
GRADE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS & GIRLS
Address: Near Corner East Drive & Gen. Ordoñez St., Marikina Hts., Marikina City
Bus. Offices: No. 289 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. Q.C. 426-03-34; 426-49-11 & 13 / Marikina City: 942-78-81 & 82
SCHOLARSHIPS FOR VALEDICTORIANS AND SALUTATORIANS AVAILABLE
SCHEDULE OF ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2001-2002
DAYS: (8:00 a.m.) JAN. 20 & 27; FEB. 3, 10, 17 & 24; MAR. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 APR. 7, 21 & 28; MAY: By Appointment
Bring: Copy of Latest report card, 2 ID (2x2) pictures, School Recommendation Form (high school applicants only).
OWNED AND MANAGED BY FORMER ATENEO ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS

MINOLTA
COPIERS • DIGITAL COPIERS/PRINTERS • COLOR COPIERS
· High-quality copying
· High productivity
· User friendly
· High reliability
· Connectivity
· Environment friendly
· Superior after-sales service
COPIERS (CS-PRO Series):
EP 1030 EP 1031 EP 1054
EP 2030 EP 3000 EP 4000
EP 5000 EP 8015
DIGITAL COPIERS/PRINTERS:
DiALTA Series
Di 151 Di 181 Di 350
Di 250 Di 520 Di 620
COLOR COPIERS/PRINTERS:
CF 910 CF 911 CF2001
ORIGINAL MINOLTA COPIER TONER & SPAREPARTS
can be purchased from any of our sales offices nationwide.
If you want your old Minolta copier serviced,
call us about the Minolta First Club at Tel. 7532222.
Exclusively Distributed in the Philippines by:
COPYLANDIA
OFFICE SYSTEMS CORPORATION
The Total Provider of Copy and Print Solutions.
PHOTOCOPIERS • COLOR COPIERS • RISOGRAPH MACHINES
LASER PRINTERS • WIDE FORMAT COPIERS • BLUEPRINTERS
OFFSET MACHINES • PLATEMAKERS • COLLATORS • BINDERS
PAPER SHREDDERS • PAPER CUTTERS • BALING PRESSES
www.copylandia.com
VISIT OUR MAKATI SHOWROOM
G/F Makati Executive Center, 114 L.P. Leviste cor.
Herrera Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
CALL US @ TEL. NOS. 753-3333 or 750-7960
NATIONWIDE BRANCH NETWORK
ANGELES 8872500, 322-1707 • BACOLOD 435-0193
CEBU 232-4520 • CAGAYAN DE ORO 857-4249
DAGUPAN 515-3306 • DAVAO 224-0792
DUMAGUETE 225-4759 • ILIGAN 221-3710
ILOILO 320-7488 • LIPA 757-0235 • LOS BAÑOS 536-5458
TACLOBAN 321-7610 • TAGBILARAN 235-3431
ZAMBOANGA 991-2446

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIR LINE PILOTS' ASSOCIATIONS
I•F•A•L•P•A
THE GLOBAL VOICE OF PILOTS

16 February 2001

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang Palace
Manila

Your Excellency:

IFALPA, the International Federation of Airline Pilot's Associations, represents over 100,000 pilots in 95 countries and is ***the Global Voice of Pilots.***

In February of last year, representatives of IFALPA, including myself, attended the Safety Seminar and Regional Conference, which was organized by our Member Association, the Air Line Pilots Association of the Philippines. We had been aware of the ongoing dispute between PAL and its pilots and we had expressed our support for the pilots of ALPAP. At the time of the February conference, the dispute had been in existence for two years and our visit to Manila gave us an increased understanding of the situation. Frankly, we were shocked and appalled by the way the pilots of ALPAP were being treated, and how the previous administration of former President Estrada ignored their plight. Indeed, former President Estrada did not even pay me the courtesy of acknowledging my letters to him, which was unprecedented in my experience.

Fundamental rights to which all employees would be entitled in any civilized country, and which are enshrined in the Labor Laws of the Philippines, have been denied to the pilots. Furthermore, as ALPAP has informed us, in two cases filed in your National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC-NRC 07-05400-98 & 00-06-0629-99), dated August 25, 2000 and December 11, 2000 respectively, the courts ordered PAL to reinstate 37 ALPAP members with full back wages. Unfortunately, even the executory portion of the decision, which is either to train the pilots or reinstate them on the payroll, was not complied with. Somehow, as is also the case with ALPAP's mother case in the Court of Appeals (CA #54880), nothing seems to happen and, of course, this is all to the detriment of the ALPAP pilots.

It is in this context that the Federation would seek your intercession on behalf of ALPAP for a just and prompt solution to their ongoing problem.

Finally, may I congratulate you on your elevation to the Presidency of the Republic, which reflects well on the commitment of the Filipino people to the principles of democracy and respect for the rule of law.

Yours sincerely,

Captain Ted Murphy
President

Attention : Honorable Secretary Renato S. De Villa
Executive Secretary

alpap
airline pilots association of the philippines

100 private armies of candidates listed

(From page A1)

been linked to murder and homicide cases, who are armed with three Armalite rifles and 16 short firearms.

Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy Alvarado allegedly maintains a five-man private army equipped with "M16, M14, AK-47 and Uzi" assault rifles and a hand grenade.

Right after his name, the document read: "Info received stated that five alleged New People's Army members were seen in the residence of the congressman and that assorted firearms were being kept in his residence for use in the forthcoming election by his supporters."

As many as 50 armed men are allegedly employed by former Sulu Rep. Bensaudi Tulawie. His group is reportedly armed with up to 29 assorted firearms.

The list said police were also watching groups linked to Governors Abdusakur Tan of Sulu, Zacaria Candao of Maguindanao, Sadikul Sahal of Tawi-Tawi and Pakung Mangodadato of Sultan Kudarat, and political leaders like Ali Dimaporo of Lanao del Sur and Datu Bimbo Sinsuat of Cotabato City.

Among the mayors allegedly maintaining PAGs are Alfred Figueras (Santo Domingo, Ilocos Sur), Arnel Mendoza (Bustos, Bulacan), Reynaldo Uy (Calbayog City, Samar), Arden Anni (Siasi, Sulu), Abdurahman Burahan (Pata, Sulu), Nasser Daud (Tapul, Sulu), Maning Diangka (Ganassi, Lanao del Sur) and Al Kaluang (Kalingalan Kaluang, Sulu).

Although they are not directly being linked to a particular politician, 12 "lost command" groups from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are also on the list.

Their chiefs are identified as Abejar, Rufo Corgue, Sammy Bullon, Borong Hajani, Hassimudin Hadjalal, Abdul Karim Hata, Ustadz Munni Jamili, Ustadz Nuala Kala, Bali Limbangan, Otong Linungan, Onap, Mamiala, Nurridin Asaid, Montong Sali and Angoling Hatib Sali.

'Hot spots'

Documents showed that of the country's 1,610 towns and cities, 537 or 33.35 percent are considered "Election Areas of Concern" (EACs) or "hot spots."

EACs are areas being contested by candidates maintaining private armies or those with a history of intense political rivalries.

Of the 537 EACs, 21 towns and cities are considered "Election Areas of Immediate Concern" (EAICs), where candidates are allegedly being backed by communist rebels, separatist groups or terrorist bands.

The documents further revealed that at least 91 private armies, composed of 4,918 members with 3,427 firearms, were being monitored by the military and police.

By region, warlordism can be considered most prevalent in Southern Tagalog, which had 117 EACs as of March 5, 2001.

The region even surpassed the entire Mindanao (Regions 9 to 12 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). Exactly 105 EACs are found in Mindanao.

In Metro Manila, 10 of the 17 local government units are on the EAC list, although not one is considered an EAIC. The 10 are Malabon, Manila, Navotas, Caloocan, Makati, Parañaque, Pasay, Pasig, Quezon City and Valenzuela.

Navy men shoo away 10 Chinese vessels

(From page A1)

Chinese fishing vessels with 20 dinghies within the Philippine exclusive economic zone.

The men in "frog suits" riding in small pumpboats bore a striking resemblance to the fishermen on similar sea craft photographed on Jan. 15, the report said.

Copies of the report were sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who is also the foreign secretary.

The military official, who requested anonymity, said a "controversy" erupted when four Chinese fishing boats were spotted on Jan. 15 and Feb. 1 at the shoal.

The military deployed reconnaissance planes and ships to the area to shoo away the boats, he said.

The BRP Quezon left Manila March 12 on sovereignty patrol and found the 10 fishing vessels the following day. The ship arrived yesterday morning to Manila.

Sovereignty mission

The DFA personnel, who joined the "sovereignty mission," refused to talk to the media about the Chinese vessels.

In a press statement, the Navy said personnel of the BRP Quezon "boarded and searched 10 Chinese fishing vessels found in the area and confiscated more than 50 shells of *taklobos* (giant clams) and several sacks of *taklobo* meat."

Dynamite and blasting caps used for harvesting corals and cyanide powder used in catching tropical fish and giant eels were also seized.

"The Chinese fishing vessels immediately left the shoal when the Philippine Navy started confiscating the illegally harvested marine species," the statement said.

Navy flag officer-in-command Victorino Hingco, who was present when the BRP Quezon arrived, said the Navy would "strictly enforce Philippine maritime laws and international conventions in order to preserve and protect the marine environment."

The Navy public information officer, Capt. Arturo Montojo, said the command was careful not to create a diplomatic row when it decided not to arrest the Chinese in the fishing vessels.

"That is our rule of engagement now. We will just confiscate so they would think twice about ever coming back to the shoal," he said.

On Thursday, Vice President Guingona summoned China's ambassador to Manila Wang Chungyi to protest the incursions.

The military official, who asked not to be named, said China protested the Philippine military's remarks that it was conducting a "sovereignty patrol" at the area.

He said China insisted that the shoal was under its control.

Earlier this year, Philippine Navy personnel boarded four Chinese fishing vessels in a separate incident in the area and ordered the intruders to leave.

A Chinese fisherman was shot dead in another confrontation by the two rivals in the area last year.

Gunnery range

The military official said the US forces had used Scarborough Shoal as an impact area and gunnery range.

When American forces were still at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, both the US Air Force and US Navy used the shoal for live bombing exercises.

The Philippine Air Force, particularly the 5th Fighter Wing, also uses the shoal as an exercise area along with American forces during combined military maneuvers, the military official said.

In its report, the military told Ms Macapagal and Guingona that regular Philippine Air Force reconnaissance flights were conducted and more Philippine Navy vessels were deployed in the area to stop further Chinese activities at the shoal.

The Chinese were also advised to stop their activities since they were within the Philippine exclusive economic zone.

"To further strengthen claims over the shoal, additional Philippine flags were planted in the shoal," the report said.

RP among most corrupt . . .

(From page A1)

problem, the government's willingness to lead the effort and the attitude of the local population toward corruption, it said.

Singapore

Grading countries from a scale of zero to 10, with zero being the best grade possible and 10 the worst, PERC said tiny but affluent Singapore maintained its squeaky-clean image with a score of 0.83.

Singapore's grade beat the 1.77 mark for the United States and 1.72 for Australia—two countries surveyed by PERC for purposes of obtaining an outside benchmark on how corruption is perceived as a problem in developed economies.

PERC noted that the fight against corruption in Singapore was a long and sustained campaign beginning in 1959 when the People's Action Party came to power through elections.

"It has never let up this campaign and the country's leaders had the wisdom to apply the rules indiscriminately, i.e., to themselves as well as to others, and in a very public manner," it said.

Japan was in second place with a score of 2.50 and Hong Kong came in third with 3.77, deteriorating from 2.49 last year.

Hong Kong's political, economic and geographical links to China, where corruption is much more rampant, remain a challenge for the special administrative region, PERC said.

At the other extreme of the corruption scale was Vietnam, with a grade of 9.75, followed by Indonesia with 9.50, India with 9.25, the Philippines with 9.0, Thailand with 8.55 and China with 7.88.

South Korea was graded at 7.00 while Malaysia and Taiwan both got scores of 6.0.

Aside from Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, "the grades for virtually all other countries covered by our survey are below average, defined in our instructions as a score of five," it said.

Estrada

PERC grouped the Philippines and Thailand as "countries where corruption is a serious problem but no one seems to be in a big hurry to change the system."

In these countries, the people, especially the political leaders, "seem to shrug off the problem as just the way things are" and it takes a big scandal to get the authorities into action, it said.

Referring to the toppling of corruption-tainted Philippine President Joseph Estrada in January, PERC asked: "Estrada may be gone, but how much in the Philippines has really changed?"

For Thailand, it noted how money played a prominent role in the recent elections.

China and Vietnam were categorized as countries where corruption levels are also high, but their governments are willing to admit the extent of the problem.

PERC referred to a third group of countries, which it declined to name, where governments were unwilling to admit that the problem exists and take punitive actions against critics. *AFP*

Sharon silences pro-Erap . . .

(From page A1)

Cuneta, wife of PPC candidate Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, was going to hit the campaign trail at some point for her husband and the party.

But when she did so at the mammoth rally of the PPC here Saturday night, she succeeded in hushing the crowd and taming even the rowdiest hecklers who were loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

The crowd of 30,000, including about 100 staunch Estrada supporters, fell silent when Cuneta sang her hit song, "Kahit Konting Pagtingin."

The thumbs-down sign that the pro-Estrada group was flashing at the PPC candidates onstage was turned up to show their approval.

The Estrada supporters then started waving at Cuneta who was escorted by her husband as she shook hands with the people.

Cuneta, who went onstage after all seven PPC senatorial candidates who were present had finished speaking, disarmed the pro-Estrada crowd when she asked them to vote straight PPC.

The rally was the biggest since the coalition started its nationwide campaign, said candidate Wigberto Tañada.

Cuneta is one of two celebrity wives of PPC senatorial candidates. The other is multi-awarded actress and Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, spouse of Rep. Ralph Recto.

The two are expected to play a big role in the campaign to get their husbands, as well as the others in the 13-member PPC ticket, elected.

Arrested

The rally turned rowdy at about 7 p.m. when someone in the pro-Estrada group threw a bag of ice water and an empty bottle of an energy drink at the stage while reelectionist Sen. Franklin Drilon was dancing.

The thrower, Manuel Borja, 24, was arrested by police. The water and bottle missed Drilon by a meter.

The incident caused a minor stampede when the people in front of the stage panicked and scampered in different directions.

Some people were hurt, but not seriously, because they returned to their places when Cuneta began singing.

PPC campaign organizers led by Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara asked police not to arrest members of the pro-Estrada group to show that the PPC respects everyone's opinions.

Drilon said the incident served to show that only a small segment of the population still supports Estrada and that these people were not tolerant of other's views.

'Uneducated, angry'

He said he was not offended by the incident, not even when the pro-Estrada group chanted, "Drilon, *baboy* (Drilon, pig)."

"That is just the language of people who are uneducated and angry," he said.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who addressed the rally, said his group did not mind the pro-Estrada forces.

"They were drowned out by the pro-PPC crowd so they became irrelevant, immaterial," Guingona said.

"Let us respect each other because we have our own opinions. Show that Davao residents have respect and good manners," Bohol Rep. Ernesto Herrera, a PPC senatorial candidate, exhorted the audience in Visayan.

Even Joker Arroyo, another candidate, was heckled by people who chanted "Joker, *alis* (Joker, go away)."

"Let them stay even if they heckle us. We don't give too much importance to hecklers," Arroyo told reporters after he had addressed the crowd.

Instead, Arroyo said the PPC has shattered the myth that Mindanao was "pro-Erap country."

The pro-Estrada group positioned itself to the left of the makeshift stage and unfurled banners that read, "*Magdasal na kayo*, 13-0," "Oust Chinese Imperialist," "Boycott ABS-CBN" and "Michael Sinsuat supports Erap for prosperity, posterity, democracy."

Luz Adao, Mindanao chair of the Masa ni Erap Movement, who was at the PPC rally, firmly denied organizing the pro-Estrada crowd.

At the height of the "Erap Resign" campaign in November last year, Adao led some 50 Estrada supporters in a picket at the Almendras Gym where then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was attending a multisectoral consultative assembly.

Adao's group threw crumpled copies of Pinoy Times at Macapagal's vehicle.

On Saturday night, many of those who were against the President were humming Sharon Cuneta's songs.

Conquer the heights of Academic Excellence...
Imbibe true Christian Values...
Enrich the Nationalism in you...

RED RAVENS

Consider our Course Offerings:

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- MARKETING AND SALES

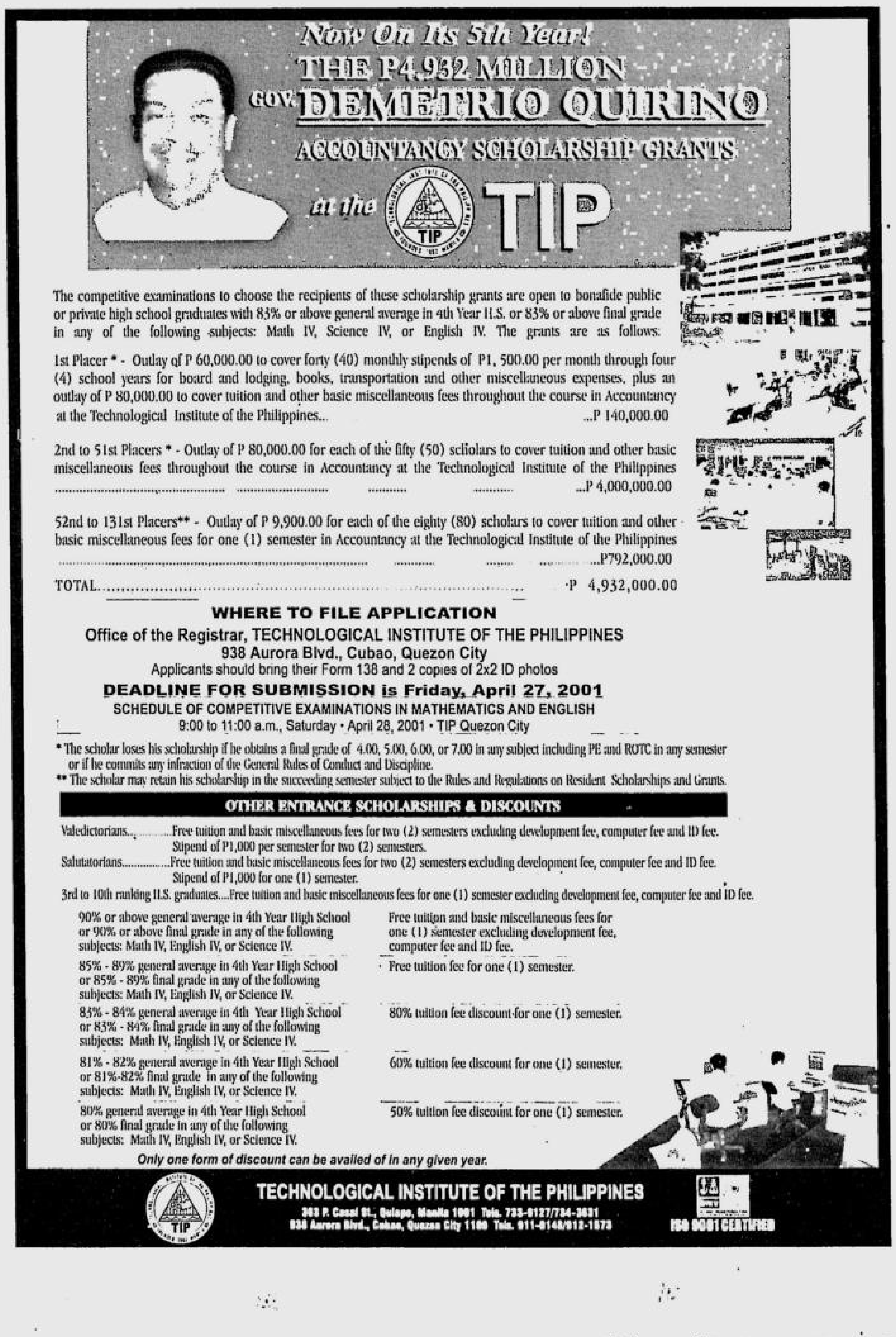
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
ACCOUNTANCY
PSYCHOLOGY
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
- ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES
- PHILIPPINE GOV'T & EXTERNAL RELATIONS
- TOURISM

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA STUDIES

St. Benedict College
SAN BEDA ALABANG
(formerly Benedictine Abbey School)
Don Manolo Blvd., Alabang Hills Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
809-7047 809-7052 809-1782
www.stbenedict.edu
sbca@stbenedict.edu

GAUDETE IN DOMINO

- *A True Benedictine Family* • *A Community of Faith* • *A College of Tomorrow*



Now On Its 5th Year!
THE P4.932 MILLION
GOV. DEMETRIO QUIRINO
ACCOUNTANCY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
at the TIP

The competitive examinations to choose the recipients of these scholarship grants are open to bonafide public or private high school graduates with 83% or above general average in 4th Year H.S. or 83% or above final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, Science IV, or English IV. The grants are as follows:

1st Placer * - Outlay of P 60,000.00 to cover forty (40) monthly stipends of P1, 500.00 per month through four (4) school years for board and lodging, books, transportation and other miscellaneous expenses, plus an outlay of P 80,000.00 to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the course in Accountancy at the Technological Institute of the Philippines... ...P 140,000.00

2nd to 51st Placers * - Outlay of P 80,000.00 for each of the fifty (50) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees throughout the course in Accountancy at the Technological Institute of the Philippines ...P 4,000,000.00

52nd to 131st Placers** - Outlay of P 9,900.00 for each of the eighty (80) scholars to cover tuition and other basic miscellaneous fees for one (1) semester in Accountancy at the Technological Institute of the Philippines ...P792,000.00

TOTAL........ P 4,932,000.00

WHERE TO FILE APPLICATION
Office of the Registrar, TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City
Applicants should bring their Form 138 and 2 copies of 2x2 ID photos

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION is Friday, April 27, 2001
SCHEDULE OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS IN MATHEMATICS AND ENGLISH
9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Saturday • April 28, 2001 • TIP Quezon City

* The scholar loses his scholarship if he obtains a final grade of 4.00, 5.00, 6.00, or 7.00 in any subject including PE and ROTC in any semester or if he commits any infraction of the General Rules of Conduct and Discipline.
** The scholar may retain his scholarship in the succeeding semester subject to the Rules and Regulations on Resident Scholarships and Grants.

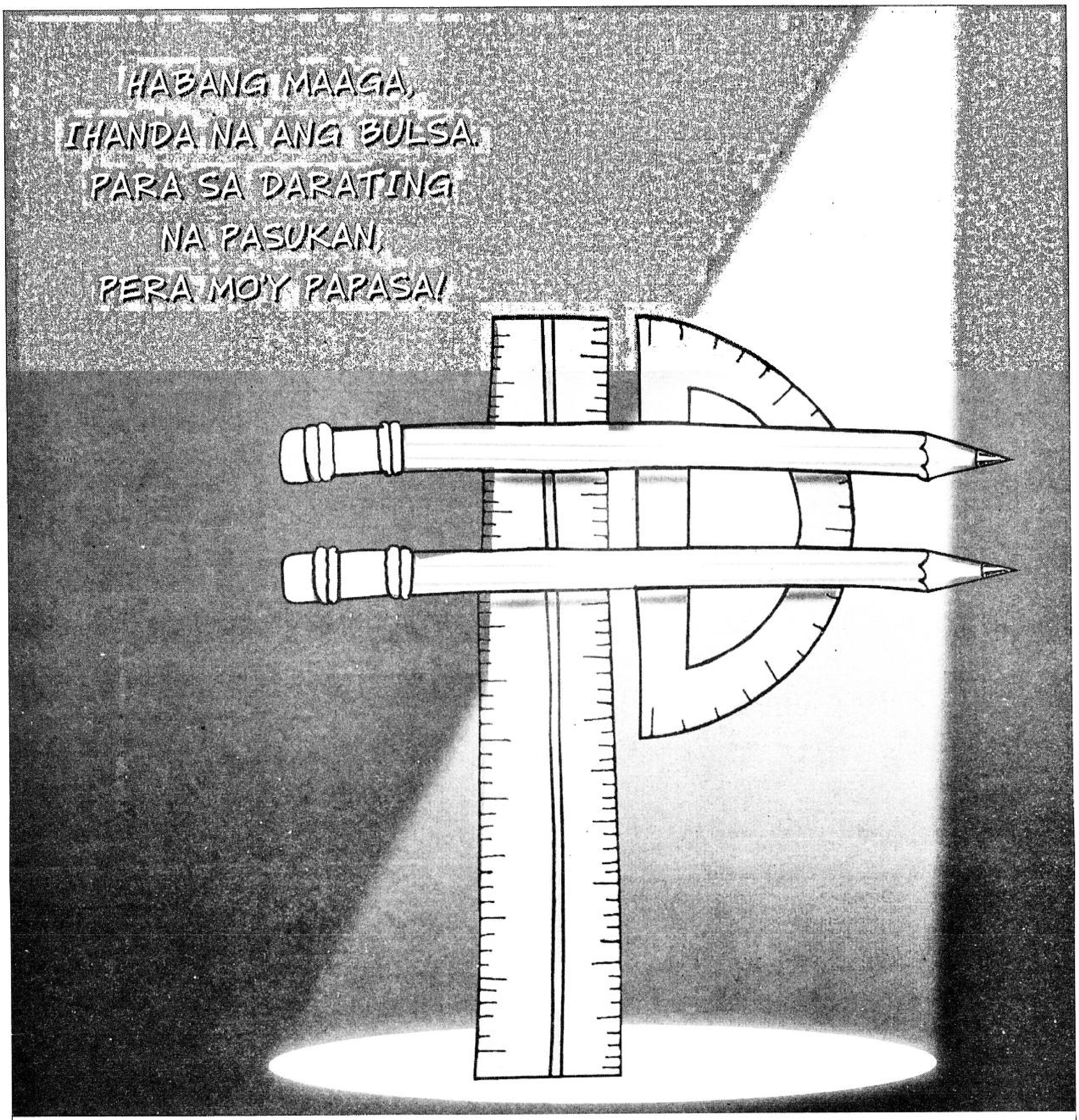
OTHER ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS & DISCOUNTS

Valedictorians......Free tuition and basic miscellaneous fees for two (2) semesters excluding development fee, computer fee and ID fee. Stipend of P1,000 per semester for two (2) semesters.
Salutatorians......Free tuition and basic miscellaneous fees for two (2) semesters excluding development fee, computer fee and ID fee. Stipend of P1,000 for one (1) semester.
3rd to 10th ranking H.S. graduates....Free tuition and basic miscellaneous fees for one (1) semester excluding development fee, computer fee and ID fee.

90% or above general average in 4th Year High School or 90% or above final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, English IV, or Science IV.	Free tuition and basic miscellaneous fees for one (1) semester excluding development fee, computer fee and ID fee.
85% - 89% general average in 4th Year High School or 85% - 89% final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, English IV, or Science IV.	Free tuition fee for one (1) semester.
83% - 84% general average in 4th Year High School or 83% - 84% final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, English IV, or Science IV.	80% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester.
81% - 82% general average in 4th Year High School or 81%-82% final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, English IV, or Science IV.	60% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester.
80% general average in 4th Year High School or 80% final grade in any of the following subjects: Math IV, English IV, or Science IV.	50% tuition fee discount for one (1) semester.

Only one form of discount can be availed of in any given year.

TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES
363 P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila 1001 Tels. 733-9127/734-2631
938 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 1109 Tels. 911-0148/912-1573
ISO 9001 CERTIFIED



Huwag mangamba na mahihirapan ang bulsa sa darating na pasukan dahil madali at mabilis ang **ASSOCIATES' KAIBIGAN LOAN**! Kahit tumaas man ang tuition, pasado pa rin ang bulsa mo.

Makakautang ka ng mula ₱15,000 hanggang ₱400,000!*

- Quick cash loans!
- 48-hour approvals!
- No collaterals!
- No documentation required to apply

Napakadali ng requirements!

- Gross monthly income of ₱12,500
- At least 3 years at residence
- At least 3 years employment
- At least 23 years old

Mga kailangan sa pagkuha ng tseke

- Certificate of Employment
- 2-months Payslip
- Utility bill
- Valid I.D. with picture

* *Subject to credit approval. For more information, visit or call our branch office nearest you.*

ASSOCIATES BRANCHES:

CAINTA:
G/F Rublou Business Center,
Ortigas Avenue Extension,
Cainta, Rizal
Tel. No.: 656-6838

CUBAO:
Fersal Building,
245 P. Tuazon Boulevard,
Cubao, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 421-0910

MAKATI:
Dolmar Gold Tower,
107 C. Palanca Street,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No.: 864-8222

CEBU:
G/F OLS Building,
443 Gorordo Avenue cor. Rosal St.,
Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 231-5856

IMUS:
2/F E. Chan Building,
Market Road, Bayan Luma,
Imus, Cavite
Tel. No.: (046) 472-1449

SAN PABLO:
65 Rizal Avenue,
San Pablo City
Tel. No.: (049) 562-6874

TAFT:
Joshua Center,
1428 Taft Avenue,
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No.: 525-7790

THE ASSOCIATES ®

Sa Bilis at Dali,
Panalong-panalo Ka!

Business Hours: Mondays to Fridays 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. · Saturdays 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Marcos crony tries to get escrow fund

(From page A1)

be. It's open-ended."

Chavez said it was "an obvious attempt to spirit the money away behind our back."

In his case before the Swiss tribunal, the unnamed crony argued that "if within a reasonable time limit the confiscation of the freeze (is) not decided, the owners of the money can request the lifting of the freeze," Salvioni said.

And the Swiss Federal Court "says that it is not possible to accept a situation in which no deadline is provided for by the legislation of the (requesting) state (as in the case of the Philippines for the forfeiture)," according to Salvioni.

Civil Case No. 0141, the government's main forfeiture case against the Marcos estate, was focused on Swiss accounts under the names of five Marcos dummy foundations.

'Rush!'

According to Salonga, the Philippine government should have been able by now to get a final court decision declaring that the Marcos wealth was ill-gotten.

But the Marcos heirs have asked the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its landmark ruling last year awarding the money to the government. The anti-graft court is expected to rule on the motion soon.

"So you see," Salonga said in a recent interview, "we might lose even the deposits already frozen by the Swiss."

Nearly 10,000 human rights abuse victims have also tried to claim the escrow account at the Philippine National Bank as part of a settlement agreement with the Marcoses.

Salonga sent a copy of the letter to Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, marking it "Rush!" but has still not received a response.

'Big show'

The disclosure came as a lawyer cautioned the government against expecting too much from a Swiss inquiry into Irene Marcos-Araneta's accounts in Switzerland because the official heading it, Zurich District Attorney Dieter Jann, allegedly covered up the existence of her accounts in 1999.

David Chaikin, an anti-money laundering expert and lawyer of Australian investigator Reiner Jacobi, repeated his earlier accusations that Jann had "lied" and "misled the PCGG" in the past.

"And now, the PCGG is going back to him and is going to take his word for it," Chaikin said. "It's all a big show."

Chaikin has in several interviews noted that Jann, in a letter in January 1999, denied the existence of Irene's "885931" account in the Union Bank of Switzerland, saying it was not part of the bank's numbering system.

Swiss officials later admitted that the account existed, although an independent report by an auditing firm reported that the deposits totaled only 20 million Swiss francs and not $13.2 billion as Jacobi had claimed in 1998.

The auditing firm also said the account was closed in 1999.

'Serious consequences'

But German investigators now allegedly have evidence that Irene tried to close the account last month and transfer "huge amounts" to Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf, Germany.

The Marcos heiress is under investigation for alleged "money laundering" by the Dusseldorf's prosecutor's office and the regional criminal investigation office.

Jann, on the request of Philippine Embassy officials in Switzerland, has asked the Germans to furnish the Swiss with whatever evidence they have against Araneta, the PCGG announced the other day.

Chaikin said the investigation by German authorities had "serious consequences" in Switzerland.

"People around there (Switzerland) have been covering this up. Here you've got a developed country which is very, very wealthy living off the spoils of money taken from the Philippines, and I suppose from other developing countries," Chaikin said, citing cases of secret deposits of other dictators he said were recently discovered in Switzerland.

Comparison

Jacobi noted that the Swiss Federal Council, which the PCGG plans to approach regarding an inquiry into the Marcos wealth, is not like a Philippine Senate.

"It's not like in the Philippines where there is a Senate blue ribbon committee that can go after the country's own institutions," he said.

"You would not expect them to go after their own institutions, especially banking institutions," he said.

Chaikin also noted that Swiss authorities, led by former Zurich District Attorney Peter Cosandey, had in the past frustrated an investigation into Swiss banks holding the alleged Marcos accounts.

"Why doesn't the Philippine government realize that the Swiss did not help them?" Jacobi asked.

He also criticized the Macapagal administration for not confronting the Marcoses and the Aranetas on the subject of the alleged money-laundering attempt in Germany that was reported in the INQUIRER earlier this week.

The Aranetas have refused to take the INQUIRER's calls seeking their reaction, and have not issued any statement.

"Nobody from the Philippine government has asked the Aranetas yet or Edna Camcam (an alleged party to the deal). Even at this juncture, the Aranetas are being protected, the Marcoses are being protected," Jacobi claimed.

'I never met with Aranetas'

(From page A1)

(that) from the beginning I have been and always will be on RJ's (Reiner Jacobi's) side. To think anything to the contrary would just be ludicrous on your part.

If you would go to (the) Philippine Daily Inquirer website and read of your involvement in the largest attempted money laundering operation in history. (sic)

All persons involved were under surveillance by audio (and) video, our coming and going, trips to the bank and yes, your bank account (at) DB (Deutsche Bank in Dusseldorf), along with all the others, all telephone conversations, etc.

After reading this monumental new release, every question you may have will become crystal clear.

I'm sure that you will inform Mr. (Hank) Hutcherson of the (day's) events.

Regards,
Mr. "dealmaker" Boardman

I was not really surprised by this e-mail or by the INQUIRER articles, since "Tim" Boardman has finally proven, through his trip to Germany and other actions, that this was nothing but a "frame-up" project to begin with.

It appears to me that Boardman was the one actually pushing this entire scam—and, no doubt, entrapment scheme—by Reiner Jacobi and his lawyer David Chaikin.

Because I never took this project seriously, I did not keep any logs or keep track of dates during the whole episode, and am now recalling events from memory only.

My involvement in this whole thing started about three years ago, while I was living in Manila, working for an American firm.

Hank Hutcherson's father, whom I had known for several years, contacted me. He told me that his son had made a very substantial investment in some scheme involving a Reiner Jacobi. He asked if I would speak with his son and with a Timothy Boardman who had also apparently invested in this scheme. Because I had known Mr. Hutcherson for a number of years, I agreed.

Hank and Tim flew to Manila where I met them for the first time. They told me of Jacobi's wild scheme that they had invested in through a group somewhere out of Colorado. They said this group now wanted another $200,000.

David Castro

They even introduced me to one of Jacobi's alleged partners. This was a Filipino whose name I recall as David Castro. I was told this man used to head the Presidential Commission on Good Government. *(Ed's note: Castro was chair of the PCGG from June 1990 to June 1992.)*

Together, they showed me a bunch of documents, including, as I recall, numerous communications and various "banking documents" from Jacobi and others.

My comment was simply that this seemed like a "con game" and that Hank and Tim should certainly not proceed with it—and most certainly not pay any more money to either Castro or to Jacobi or to whomever was "selling" shares in this wild scheme.

Boardman told me that he had substantially invested in this project also, and simply wanted to know whether it was real. I told him it appeared to me to be nothing more than a scam perpetrated by this Reiner Jacobi, whom I had not met yet at the time.

I did not hear back from either Boardman or Hutcherson until some time late last year. Perhaps in October, Boardman called me to ask if he and Hank could come and meet with me, and after I readily agreed, they flew to Manila.

Ready to recover money

They told me that Jacobi was ready to try to make a recovery for the Marcoses.

I asked Tim whether this was another blackmail scheme, and he said no. Hank said he did not know, since it was mostly Tim who did the talking with Jacobi and/or Chaikin.

I then spoke on the phone with Hank's father and told him again that I thought his son had been duped. Hank's dad asked me if there was any way that I could check this out and possibly help his son recover his investment. I said I would look into it.

I did not like or trust Tim Boardman, simply because it appeared to me that he and Jacobi were always looking at various schemes to try to entrap people. I felt that Hank Hutcherson, on the other hand, was a scapegoat for all of them and no doubt a source of funding for Jacobi's operation.

It was my understanding that Hank's primary motivation in seeing this new scheme through was his desire to get back his initial investment.

Hank had a lot of money involved. He had told me a lot of people had invested in Jacobi's first project and had never received any return on their investment. Hank had also mentioned that it was quite possible that the supposed investment scheme may have been promoted illegally.

At this point, he said, he did not trust either Reiner Jacobi or David Chaikin, but wanted to see if he could recoup some of his investment through this new recovery deal.

Boardman, it appeared to me, was pressuring Hank to stay involved.

Meeting 'my friends'

Nonetheless, on the request of Hank's father, I contacted some people regarding the subject of recovery and asked them to at least listen to Hank and Tim's story. I told them I could only vouch for Hank and not for Tim.

Tim was quite insistent that this recovery deal was real and that Jacobi had good evidence that he had found money that not even the Marcoses knew of.

He also stated that Jacobi told him that none of the funds he had supposedly discovered were encumbered in any way and that this would be a perfectly legal transaction.

I asked Tim specifically if there was anything illegal about this entire project and he assured me that there was none. In fact, he stated that not even the Marcoses knew anything about this bank account or even had any idea of the alleged amount deposited in it.

And so a meeting took place between my friends and Hank and Tim.

At this time, my friends had no idea that Reiner Jacobi was involved. I believe that if they had, they would have immediately considered this to be outright fraud on Jacobi's and perhaps even Tim Boardman's part.

Perhaps I should have disclosed this, but since in my mind Jacobi was working for Hank and Tim (because of the investments they had made in this project), I foolishly thought Jacobi was not all that important and was merely a "behind the scenes" man doing investigations of accounts.

I did not sit in on any negotiations and was never privy to any contracts that allegedly were signed. I do not think any contracts were ever signed in the Philippines at all.

I never invested in this project and was never offered any money by anyone throughout this entire episode. My motivation was not money and my entire role was to help the father of a friend who thought his son was being duped.

Jacobi in Germany

Boardman flew to Germany to meet with Jacobi and Chaikin under the guise of checking all of these out. Hank still at the time believed Tim was his "friend" in this investment. It was my belief that Tim, Hank and myself were the only ones who at the time knew of Jacobi's involvement.

Hank and I were only trying to establish if Jacobi, Chaikin and even Boardman were defrauding Hank and trying to entrap others in their wild scheme.

It was my understanding that if Hank found out his investment could not be recovered by normal business means and that if this entire affair proved to be fraudulent, he could explore his legal options in the United States for recouping his investment.

Hank and I flew to Germany, and there for the first time I met Reiner Jacobi and David Chaikin.

The two, along with Boardman, had been in Germany for about a week when Hank and I arrived. It was very apparent that they had all been working together on contriving some kind of a scheme.

The very first thing that I did when I met Jacobi, Chaikin and Boardman in the lobby of the Hilton Hotel was to ask them if there was anything illegal about this entire process. They all assured me that there was none, and again that not even the Marcoses knew anything about the money. They stated these several times during this first meeting.

To US investors

Later, I told Hank privately that I thought this whole thing seemed like an elaborate scheme so he and the other investors in Jacobi's plan would not lose faith and file fraud lawsuits against the parties involved.

I was not privy to any of the other business arrangements that were made in Germany among Jacobi, Chaikin, Boardman or Hutcherson.

Hank did tell me that Jacobi and "company" were supposed to receive 10 percent of whatever was collected, and that these funds would be distributed among themselves and the other American investors in this scheme.

I also recall that this subject came up at a dinner I had with Jacobi, Chaikin and Hank. Jacobi told Hank that he (Jacobi) would have to distribute this 10 percent to his investors in the United States. He asked Hank to open a bank account in Germany in order for Hank to help facilitate receiving Jacobi's 10 percent and disbursing portions of it to whomever Jacobi wanted it to go. I even heard Hank tell Jacobi that he would require the Australian to receive an IRS (Internal Revenue Service) form stating that Jacobi had indeed received this money.

Didn't meet Aranetas

I told my Filipino friends that so far this looked like a clean and legal transaction based on what Jacobi, Chaikin and Boardman had told Hank and myself.

I never met or even saw the couple in question (Greggy and Irene Araneta), and in fact only met with Attorney Eli (Eleazar Reyes, the Aranetas' lawyer and a partner in Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's law firm) once just to say hello.

People were asked to go to the bank to sign documents which, again, I never saw. Hank then suggested that he and I go to the bank to open an account for each of us, on Jacobi's advice.

We deposited DM100 each and our understanding was that if there were no activity in these accounts, they would be closed.

Reiner Jacobi suggested we meet with his banker friend, a Joachim Strache, who opened these accounts for us.

I actually had no reason to open an account other than the fact that I was there, so I did. I never anticipated using this account or anticipated any funds ever going to it.

I do not have any facts about what happened after this. I left Germany and let the other people take care of their business, and went back to my regular job.

I was not privy to any and all of the meetings that supposedly took place. I have never seen any signed documents involved here.

I never benefited nor really expected to benefit in any way, shape or form from this business transaction. The only thing I did was to introduce a friend of mine to another friend.

Extortion?

Not more than three months ago, Boardman contacted me, telling me that Jacobi was ready to release certain information against the Marcoses unless the family paid them (meaning Boardman and Jacobi, I presumed).

I simply said that this sounded like blackmail and/or extortion and that I would have no part in this.

Timothy called three times that week and tried to get me to contact my friends ant tell them that Jacobi was ready to deal.

But the issue was dropped. I did contact Hank Hutcherson at the time, and told him what Tim had told me. Hank said Tim was just trying to recoup his alleged investment and that I should ignore him. Hank also told me that he had never heard of or agreed to any such blackmail scheme.

As to the INQUIRER saying I was a party to an alleged money-laundering attempt, I think this is totally unfair. I was never a party to any such scheme.

Money laundering? I don't think so. Being deceived by unscrupulous characters from Australia? Most definitely. Trying to help a friend recover a rather substantial investment? Yes, of course. I would always help a friend. Did I know anything other than this? Absolutely not.

Jacobi, Chaikin and Timothy Boardman stated I made threats on their life. That is the most absurd thing I have ever heard. I have no reason to threaten them. This was just business and not life-threatening. I have no malice toward any of them.

But the events confirmed that this con game was conceived by Jacobi, Chaikin and Boardman, perhaps to justify the monies they had collected or solicited from their other investors here in the States.

Reiner Jacobi, in my opinion, is a fortune hunter and perhaps even a con man, concocting wild stories for his own personal gain. His tarnished reputation is even more tarnished now.

I think it would be very easy to ask him to disclose how much money he has received over the past 10 or 12 years from investors in his wild scheme, and how much he has paid out to his investors and maybe even to certain Philippine government officials.

Never betray a friend

I have always been a loyal and dedicated friend to the Philippines and its people. I would never knowingly betray this country and *would never betray a friend.*

As far as I am concerned, I have absolutely nothing to hide. I am only guilty of helping one friend through a bad investment and of trying to help some very good people in the Philippines, whom I am honored to have called friends for a number of years.

At no time was I contacted by the INQUIRER to give my side or my opinion in this matter or to even verify if any of this was true.

I believe my friends in the Philippines and, for that matter, friends anywhere in the world know me to be a truthful, dedicated and honorable person. Anyone who wants to can most certainly examine my bank accounts and they will clearly see that I have never benefited or attempted to benefit monetarily from Jacobi or from any other person, for that matter.

I consider Hank Hutcherson to be an honorable person who would never knowingly betray anyone or commit any illegal act. I have known his father for more than 15 years. Both Hank and his father are very good businessmen and are well-respected in their communities.

I would stand behind these two men just as I would stand behind any of my Filipino friends. I am not afraid to return to the country I love, the Philippines, and the people I respect. I am not afraid to come home at any time to answer any questions.

CEBU PACIFIC
The On Time, Great Value Airline

The best
low fares in the air
just got even better.

2-day Advance Purchase Fares

P1,697 ONE WAY

VISAYAS

MNL / CEB v.v.
MNL / ILO v.v.
MNL / BCD v.v.
MNL / TAC v.v.
MNL / KLO v.v.
MNL / RXS v.v.
MNL / DGT v.v.
CEB / DVO v.v.
CEB / ZAM v.v.
KLO / CEB v.v.
ZAM / DVO v.v.
CGY / DVO v.v.

P1,997 ONE WAY

MINDANAO

MNL / CGY v.v.
MNL / DVO v.v.
MNL / ZAM v.v.
DVO / KLO v.v.
ILO / DVO v.v.

1. All tickets are REFUNDABLE, REROUTABLE and UPGRADABLE to valid higher fare types. All issued tickets are NON-TRANSFERABLE.
2. Booking and rebooking requirements for 2-Day Advance Purchase fares must strictly be adhered to. (Closed bookings required)
3. Fares Travel Validity: Until 23 March 2001 ONLY
4. Last Selling Date: Until 21 March 2001 ONLY
5. Child, senior citizen and student discounts will not apply on these fares.
6. Limited seats will be offered on these special fares.
7. All fares are subject to government approval.

CEBU PACIFIC
The On Time, Great Value Airline.

ISO 9002

Call 636-4938
or the Sales Agent nearest you
www.cebupacificair.com

Exposed

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"WHAT is really wrong with the BAP?" asked the venerable Julian Malonso.

"First and fundamentally, the Basketball Association of the Philippines is like a tree without roots," he said.

A former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, Malonso said the regional associations, the lowest units composing the mother association, are ghosts. "They have directors but no activities. The directors are only used by the association for election purposes."

Malonso recalled the "magbilas" (sisters' husbands) used to run the basketball association, and when the president of the association could no longer hold or control the association he ingratiated himself with the President of the Philippines and had the President's son-in-law elected as his successor. Later on, a position (that of chairman) was created to accommodate him.

"The former president wielded the power just the same because the incoming president was beholden to the chairman. This is how the basketball association is run," said Malonso, an Olympic purist who played varsity basketball for UST in the 1940s.

"This is also true in other sports associations, stressed Malonso. "There are National Sports Associations which are headed by people who are not really sports lovers. These people are using the position for their prestige and travels and, sometimes, for business like taking advantage of the tax-free supplies and equipment which they sell to the black market."

Visibly disheartened, Malonso also noted that sports leaders from the Philippine Sports Commissions down to the NSAs travel a lot using government funds under the pretext of attending meetings in international federations. Even the IOC (International Olympic Committee) representative to the Philippines (Frank Elizalde in this case-MRI) travels a lot at the expense of IOC.

"Elizalde is remiss in his duty to protect the Olympic movement," said Malonso. He explained that Elizalde interfered in the last POC elections and in the ouster of Cristy Ramos as president of the POC. He also stressed that the POC should be composed of men and women who believe in the Olympic movement. "Unfortunately, some of them are even of doubtful character without athletic background," Malonso stated.

"There is much graft and corruption in sports, even sexual harassment," said Malonso.

"Philippine sports is in a very said situation," he added, citing the following reasons:

- The creation of the Gintong alay, the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, later Department of Youth and Sports Development and currently the Philippine Sports Commission are all government intervention in sports.

When Baron Pierre de Coubertin revived the modern Olympics, there is a provision in the Olympic charter that prohibits government, religious and economic intervention in sports. The blatant violation of this provision is the cause of all these troubles in sports.

- Some of the former sports commissioners have been charged in the Ombudsman. The PSC became a dumping place of lame ducks. Some who lost in the national elections were appointed to the PSC.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Tiger back in familiar spot, leads by 1 shot

ORLANDO, Florida—Tiger Woods wasn't about to let one bad swing keep him from where he wanted to be—in the lead Saturday at the Bay Hill Invitational, and in position to win for the first time this year.

After hitting into the water and making bogey on the easiest hole at Bay Hill, Woods made an immediate and spectacular recovery. He hit a 4-iron from 191 meters (210 yards) into a stiff breeze to about 25 centimeters (10 inches) on the par-3 17th and wound up with a 6-under 66.

That was enough to give him a one-stroke lead over Sergio Garcia going into the final round, which will start early Sunday because of an approaching storm system.

Woods was at 12-under 204, and had the outright lead after 54 holes for the first time in 10 PGA Tour events, dating to the NEC Invitational in August.

Garcia, who beat Woods in a made-for-TV match play event in California seven months ago, hit his approach into the 18th hole to about 1.2 meters (4 feet) for birdie and had a 68.

But this will hardly be a match-play situation.

Chris Perry had a 69 and, at 206, will join Woods and Garcia in the final group.

Another stroke back was Masters champion Vijay Singh, while a large group at 208 includes Phil Mickelson and Greg Norman, playing his first PGA Tour event this year.

Scott McCarron had a chance to catch Woods until hitting into the water on the 18th hole and taking triple bogey to fall back into the large group at 208.

Conditions were perfect, with a cloud cover keeping the course soft and a breeze slowly gaining strength as the afternoon wore on. Only 22 of the 71 players failed to break par.

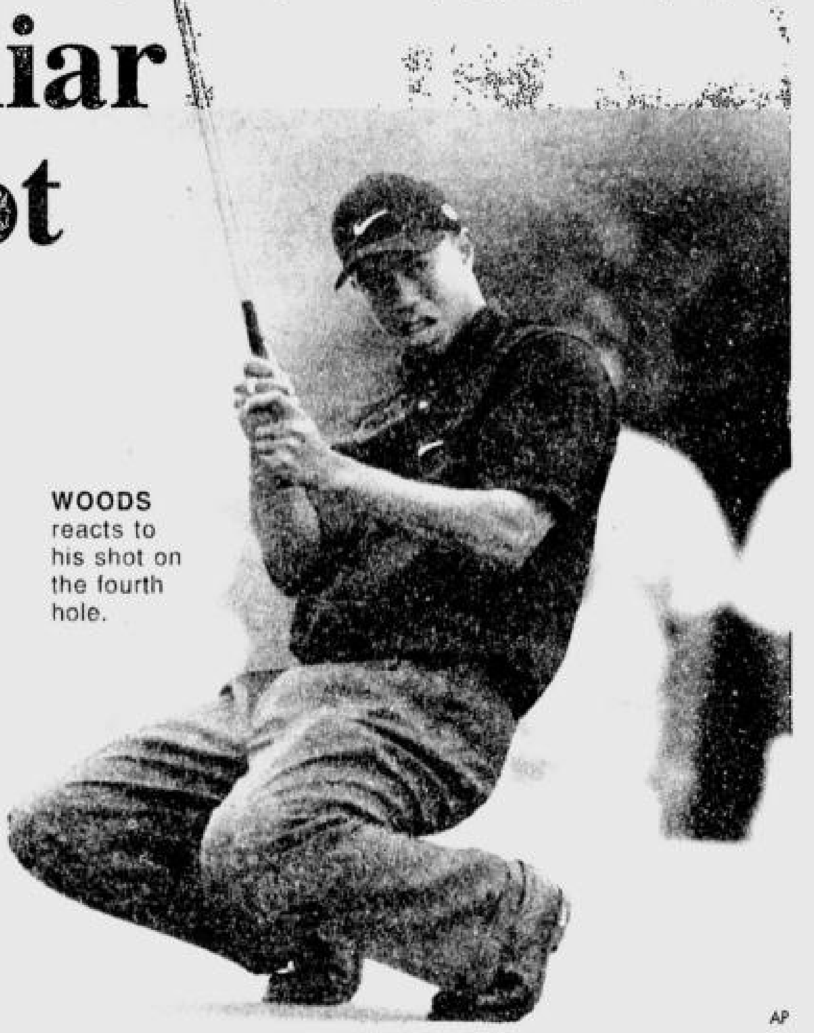
Woods, the defending champion at Bay Hill, started his final round two strokes out of the lead but looked early on like the player who won nine times and three straight majors last year.

He birdied six of his first 11 holes, and perhaps the biggest one was a 3.6-meter (12-foot) putt on the par-3 seventh. It was the kind of putt that had been sliding by or lipping out all year, but this one broke gently from left to right and dropped in.

"I had momentum on my side," Woods said. "I just hopped on and rode it."

By the end of the day, the lead wasn't quite the size Woods expected, but he had few complaints. He had a three-stroke lead going into the final three holes, but after a 15-minute wait on the 16th tee, his drive found the left bunker.

From 177 meters (195 yards) out and the hole below the huge ridge on the green, Woods hit 5-iron and hung it out to the right. What followed was the hollow sound of "kerplunk" as the ball landed in the murky pond. *AP*



WOODS reacts to his shot on the fourth hole.

AP

Que heads NGAP amateur circuit field at Valley Golf

MULTITITLED Angelo Que seeks a follow-up to his PAL Interclub individual romp when he leads the cast for the second Titleist-Footjoy National Amateur Circuit starting tomorrow (Tuesday, March 20) at the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Among Que's foremost challengers in the 72-hole championship division are Southwoods teammates Cookie LaO and Jerome Delariarte, first leg winner Gene Bondoc, Canlubang mainstay Solomon Gines and recent Corporate Cup winner Godofredo Sinfuego.

Ruby Walker-Chico, who like Bondoc was among the winners of the kick-off leg at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite, eyes another victory in the 54-hole ladies division against all the members of the national training team.

The event is being staged by the National Golf Association of the Philippines in cooperation with Titleist and Footjoy through its exclusive Philippine distributor Dynamic Sports Corp. as a major basis for the selection of the RP teams to the Putra Cup and SEA Games this year.

Aside from the championship men (handicap 0-4.4), the 54-hole ladies championship (0-9.4), there are 36-hole events for men's Group I (0-4.4), Group II (4.5-10.4) and Group III (10.5-19.4) and Group IV (19.5 and above) and ladies divisions.

Que and most of the country's top male amateurs failed to play in the first leg since they were then in Cebu busy preparing for the PAL Interclub.

"We envision the series to become the battleground of the country's best amateurs. The more consistent players in the circuit will have a big edge in the national team selection," NGAP tournament chairman Iggy Clavecilla said.

Clavecilla also expressed confidence the series will steadily get the top candidates for the national teams in the best possible shape in time for the country's two major commitments abroad this year.

The series, also sponsored in part by the Valley Golf and Country Club, Nextel, Chris T Sports, and GG&A Club Shares, will be touring seven of the the country's most exclusive courses.

Prizes donated by Titliest-Footjoy are in store for the winners. The first player to score a hole-in-one also wins a top-of-the-line golf set from the sponsors.

Patricios triumph

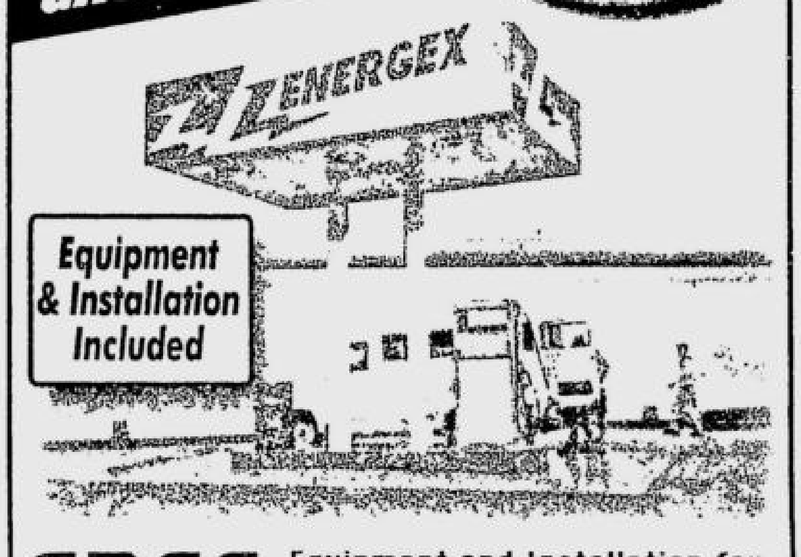
THE HUSBAND-AND-WIFE tandem of Oscar and Nila Patricio carded a net eight-under-par 64 then nipped Butch Campos and Nini Samaniego in the countback for the Group I title in the recent monthly tournament for members of the Sherwood Hills Golf Club in Trece Martirez, Cavite.

Playing the exciting scramble format, the Patricios blended their shots well enough to match the score of the Samaniegos and prevailed by virtue of their better back nine score of 36.

Boy Escano and Peng Perez de Tagle placed third with a 65.

In Group II, Alfredo Javellana and his wife won with a net 58 with the pair of Sandie Squillantini-Teri de Castro (59) and Merwin and Artie Mediana (61) claiming third place.

MAG NEGOSYO NG GASOLINAHAN!
For as low as P220,000



Equipment & Installation Included
FREE Equipment and Installation for Jeep and Truck Terminal Owners
ZENERGEX Tels. 888-2212 / 843-1213

RP . . .

(From page A24)

had to watch Bobby Parks' buzzer-beating triple fall short before erupting in celebration.

"The boys proved their professionalism. They played above injuries and problems," said national head coach Boyzie Zamar.

Earlier, Joonang University of South Korea repeated over the Laguna Lakers, 89-78, to clinch third place in the tournament organized by the National Basketball League and supported by Healthy Options, Federal Express and Jam Transit.

RP TEAM 77-Calaguio 17, Victolero 13, Ferriols 10, Padilla 8, Tierra 7, Laure 7, Echavez 5, Adducul 4, Se 2, Dela Rosa 2.

CEBU-LHUILLIER 74-Parks 25, Paariso 21, Alforque 11, Smith 8, Almonte 3, Alvarado 2, Redulosa 2, Ocanada 2.

Halftime: 35-29.

CAVITE CHESSFEST

Cavite Rep. Ayong Maliksi (left) makes the ceremonial move opening the Ayong Maliksi-sponsored Cavite Individual Chess Tournament recently at Robinson Place, Imus, Cavite,. Looking on are lawyer Quirino Sagario (opposite him), chair of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, and some of the participants. The nine-round, Swiss-system tourney stakes cash prizes, with the top finisher winning P8,000. Holding sports events,.Maliksi said in his speech, is one sure way of luring the youth away from the temptations of drugs.

Milo footrace Manila qualifying event slated

THE MILO National Marathon, the country's biggest and longest-running marathon event, turns 25 this year.

And as part of its silver anniversary celebration, sponsoring Nestle Philippines Inc. is doing a first of its kind in the Milo Marathon's long history that has produced the likes of Justo Tabunda Jr., the late Jimmy de la Torre, Leonardo Illut, Roy Vence, and the Ballester brothers, Wilfredo and Allan, among others.

For the first time, the Metro Manila qualifying event set on June 24, will be a full 42-kilometer marathon where a 3:30 time for men and 4:00 for female participants have been set to qualify for the national finals scheduled for Dec. 9. All previous Metro Manila qualifying runs were limited to 20K distance.

"This is in response to the numerous requests we have been receiving from runners for the holding of an open full marathon locally, considering that the previous 42K events like the PAL Manila International Marathon and the Pilipinas Third World Marathon have long been stopped," said Milo sports executive Jackby Jaime.

Last year's defending champions, Allan Ballester and Christabel Martes, have also been seeded to the national finals, according to Milo national race organizer Rudy Biscocho.

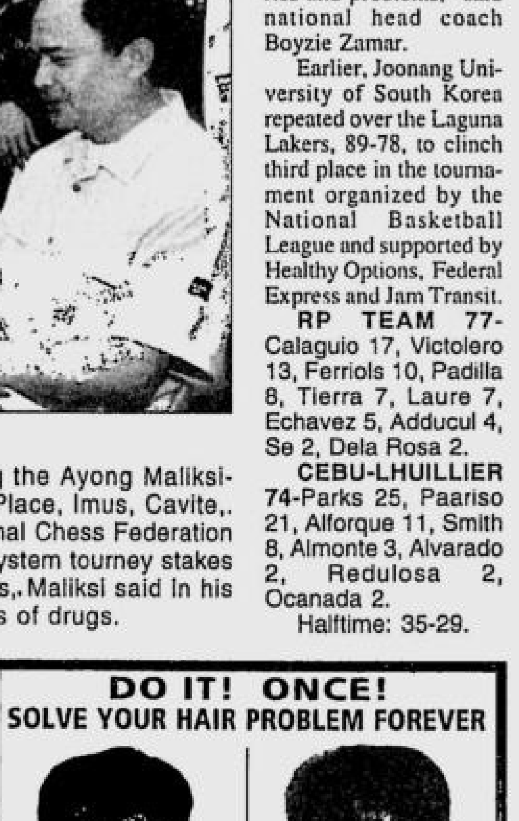
"We will use the PAL-MIM marathon route for the Metro Manila elimination run and this will take the participants from Manila to Pasay, Parañaque, Makati, Mandaluyong, San Juan, and back to Manila using Edsa," added Biscocho.

Cash prizes for the Metro Manila 42K run have also been increased to P30,000, P20,000 and P10,000, for the top three finishers in both the men's and women's division.

As this developed, Biscocho also announced that the Greenhills Running Club of San Juan and Runnex of Quezon City are inviting everyone who intends to join the 42K National Milo Marathon on June 24 to train with them in their regular Sunday runs to better prepare them to finish the distance.

This year's regional races outside of Metro Manila are scheduled in Davao City, July 8; Naga City, July 22; Tacloban City, Aug. 5; Olongapo City, Aug. 19; Bacolod City, Sept. 2; Tuguegarao City, Sept. 16; Gen. Santos City, Sept. 30; Batangas City, Otc. 14; Cagayan de Oro City, Oct. 28; Baguio City, Nov. 11; and Cebu City, Nov. 25

DO IT! ONCE!
SOLVE YOUR HAIR PROBLEM FOREVER



Whether you are thinning or totally bald we have the solution. Trim it, dye it, style it - do what you want. No maintenance needed. Restore your hair and keep it for the rest of your life.
Andrew G. Pineda M.D.
• Hair transplant surgeon
• Surgical or Medical solutions to your hair loss problems.
MANILA 8130691 ; DAVAO 2212682
www.pinedahair.com

SENTRY
World Leader in Fire-Resistant and Security Storage
Anniversary Sale!
MARCH 1 - 31
Protection! Security! Customized Organization!

FIRE RATING
AVAILABLE IN 47 OUTLETS NATIONWIDE
METRO MANILA Automatic Center • National Bookstore • Rustan's • ACE Hardware • SM Hardware Workshop • Makro • Office 1 Superstore • True Value, Rockwell Powerplant • METRO CEBU ACE Hardware • National Bookstore • Metro Gaisano • Makro Cebu • PROVINCIAL - National Bookstore, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City • SM Department Store, Iloilo City • ACE Hardware SM Iloilo City • ACE Hardware, SM Pampanga • Makro Davao
EXCLUSIVELY DISTRIBUTED BY ZENOREX MARKETING CORPORATION
TEL 893-7610 FAX 894-5618
Promo Period March 1 - 31, 2001
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0364 Series of 2001

Serena booed, wins; Pete, Andre advance

INDIAN WELLS, California—Serena Williams was booed throughout the match and the jeering grew louder when she hugged her father and sister following her victory.

Williams, given a pass to the women's Masters Series title match when her sister Venus withdrew from their semifinal two days earlier, lost the first three games of Saturday's final against Kim Clijsters. But Serena regained her composure and went on to win 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Almost overshadowed, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi each won their semifinals to move into the men's championship match on Sunday. Sampras beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-5, 6-4 and Agassi defeated Lleyton Hewitt 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

During the women's match, many of the 15,940 fans began booing as soon as Williams walked onto the court to warm up.

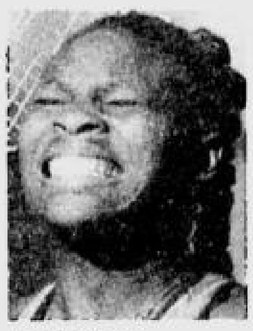
"I would like to thank my father for giving me strength. You guys were a little tough on me today. I want to thank those who supported me, and if you didn't, I love you guys anyway," Serena said after accepting the dlrs 330,000 winner's check and blowing a kiss to the crowd.

She hadn't played since Wednesday, gaining a berth in the title match when Venus pulled out of their semifinal at the last minute Thursday evening because of tendinitis in her right knee—to the displeasure of the 11,767 fans who showed up for their highly anticipated match.

Venus had shown no sign of the ailment while winning her matches leading up to the semifinals. However, both Venus and a women's tour trainer said she was in pain and unable to play against her sister.

Venus, ranked No. 3, and Serena, No. 10, rarely play in the same events except for the four Grand Slam tournaments. Venus, 20, holds a 4-1 edge over Serena, 19.

Sounding more like a cynical boxing crowd than the usual polite tennis gathering, the fans' booing built to a crescendo when Serena was introduced. *AP*



WILLIAMS

THE FIRST NAME IN FIBERGLASS CANOPIES
ALPHA
FOR SMART FOLKS WHO WANT MORE VALUE FOR MONEY
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY BY PRICEY ROOFTOP CANOPIES
ALPHA STILL ONLY ₱36,800
NO-DRILL FITTING
Designer clamp. Install/remove canopy instantly. Absolutely no drilling
Concealed Gutter keeps interior from messy leaks or drips
Curved Rear Glass Door is configured to original vehicle styling
Rear Gate has double side locks for maximum security.
Sunroof supplied at no extra cost.
Front/Side Sliding Windows already provided.
Get all these at no added charge plus a sporty sunroof to go!
✓ 3rd Brake Light w/ Spoiler
✓ Sunroof with Multi-level adjustment
✓ Stainless Steel Roof Rack for heavy loads up to 275 lbs
✓ Dome Light
✓ Automotive Lining
✓ Reinforced curved glass door
✓ Front and side sliding window
OTHER ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE
SPORT BAR
MORE OPTIONS IN STORE
SEE US... COMPARE AND SAVE!
RIDE OFF ROAD & ACCESSORIES SHOP
Quezon City: Tel. 7112026, 7112127; 7112162 Makati: 8892222

Tire Lock™ Polymer Tire Cover
Cruise around with the versatile TIRE LOCK from Campershells. Front & back cover machine molded from hard ABS Polymer material
With smooth interior finish TIRE LOCK elegantly covers spare tires. Plus it's *equipped with stainless steel safety catch fastener for added security.*
Catch the latest in tire covers
TIRE LOCK from Campershells
For Pajero, Land Cruiser, CRV Adventure, Vitara and other models.
DRESS UP FOR THE ROAD
CAMPERSHELLS, INC
QUEZON CITY BRANCH
97 Banawe St., Quezon City
Tel. No.: (632) 732-7070
MAKATI BRANCH
5448 South Super High-way, Makati City
Tel. No.: (632) 889-2222
http://www.campershells.com.ph • e-mail: info@campershells.com.ph

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: 2001 NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Championships, East Regional First Round at 1 p.m. (r – 8 p.m.), West Regional First Round at 3 p.m. (r – 12:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Bay Hill Invitational, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10 p.m. (delayed) on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 9:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day—Malaysian Grand Prix at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
Malaysian Grand Prix at 10:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
SBK Superbike Highlights at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Motorsport Asia at 5:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
International Motorsport News 2001 at 6 p.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Tennis Show at 4 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

MOTOCROSS champion Ernie Leongson of Shell-Yamaha Racing Team displays his winning form during the kickoff leg of the PLDT presents MAD (Mamamayang Ayaw sa Droga) Motocross Super Series 2001 in Fort Bonifacio recently. Leongson finished second in the pro 125 category. Other Shell-Yamaha riders also figured prominently in the series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

'Moto' resumes March 24

THE NATIONAL Motocross Super Series 201: A Race of PLDT resumes on March 24 in Fort Bonifacio with Glen Aguilar, Irwin Uypitching, Robert Mencias and Kennet San Andres hoping to extend their dominance in their respective categories.

Aguila, who edged guest rider Attila Szerda of Australia in a tight battle for top honors in the kickoff leg last March 3, sets out as the slight favorite anew in the centerpiece pro open category in this 12-part series organized by Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and supported by MAD (Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga) and kids Foundation.

The former basketball player-turned motocross rider is nursing slim two-point lead over Szerda, 37-35, in the overall standings in this event sponsored by Norkis Yamaha, Dreambikes, Smart ZED, Agua Vida, Bench, WGA Super Ferry, Transtainer Systems and Access Plus.

Also seeing action are 1999 PLDT motocross champion Jing Leongson, who is running third overall with 27 points; and Ernie Leongson and Jovie Saulog, who occupy fourth and fifth places with 26 points.

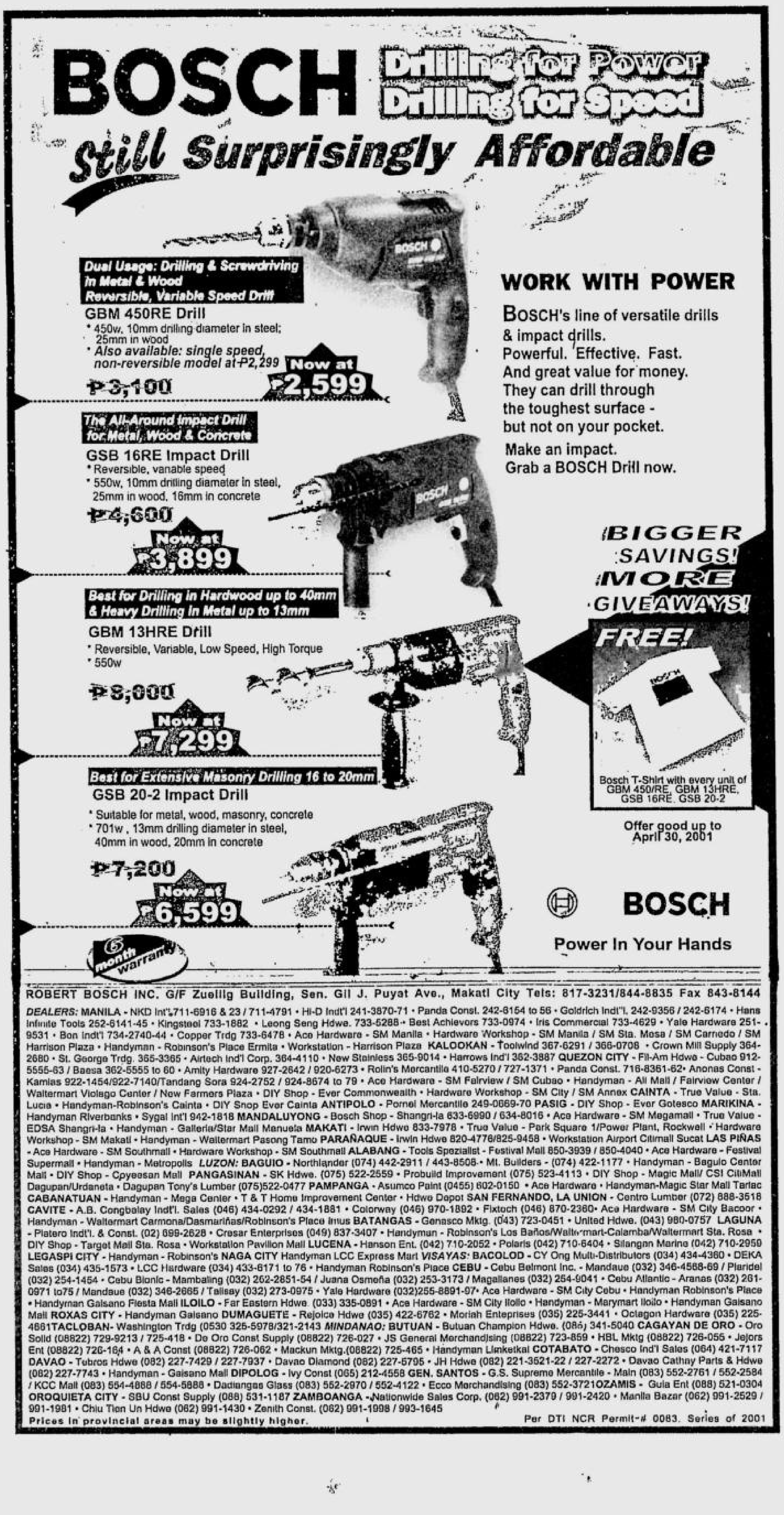
Aguilar is also slightly ahead in the pro 125 class over Ernie Leongson and Bebet dela Cruz.

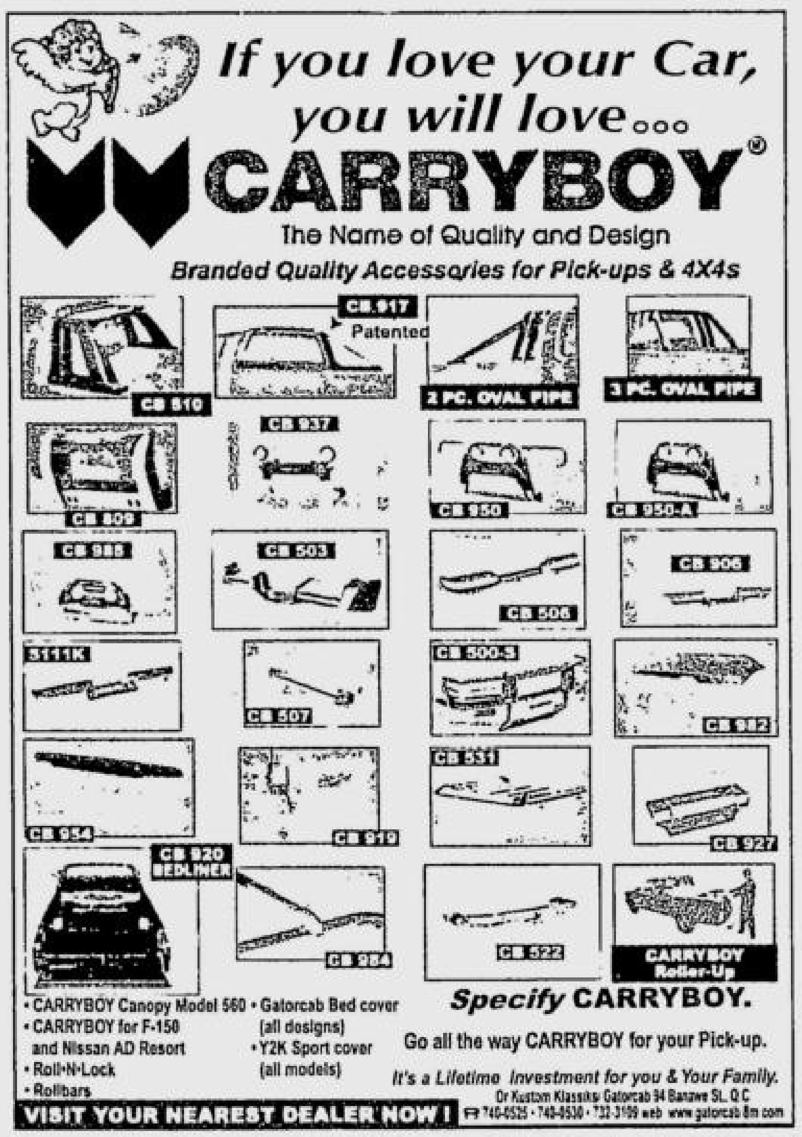
Uypitching, a mainstay of Shell-Yamaha Racing Team, will also seek his second straight win in the expert class over Pepo Rubi, Alvin Beech, Johnny Garcia and Junjun San Andres.

Mencias is also hoping to repeat his victory in the power enduro category over J.D. Andrews, Juno Villena, Rudy Nadela and Nani Pazcoguin.

San Andres, the "Wonderboy" from Valenzuela, is favored in the mini class over perennial rivals Jimboy Marcelo, Maico Buncio, Rundall Bordador and Joana Areglado.

San Andres, the 12-year-old elementary student of St. Louie College, has 40 points against Marcelo's 34 points.


BOSCH Drilling for Power Drilling for Speed
Still Surprisingly Affordable
Dual Usage: Drilling & Screwdriving in Metal & Wood Reversible, Variable Speed Drill
GBM 450RE Drill
• 450w, 10mm drilling diameter in steel; 25mm in wood
• *Also available: single speed, non-reversible model at ₱2,299*
~~₱3,100~~ Now at ₱2,599
The All-Around Impact Drill for Metal, Wood & Concrete
GSB 16RE Impact Drill
• Reversible, variable speed
• 550w, 10mm drilling diameter in steel, 25mm in wood, 16mm in concrete
~~₱4,600~~ Now at ₱3,899
Best for Drilling in Hardwood up to 40mm & Heavy Drilling in Metal up to 13mm
GBM 13HRE Drill
• Reversible, Variable, Low Speed, High Torque
• 550w
~~₱8,000~~ Now at ₱7,299
Best for Extensive Masonry Drilling 16 to 20mm
GSB 20-2 Impact Drill
• Suitable for metal, wood, masonry, concrete
• 701w, 13mm drilling diameter in steel, 40mm in wood, 20mm in concrete
~~₱7,200~~ Now at ₱6,599
6 month warranty
WORK WITH POWER
BOSCH's line of versatile drills & impact drills.
Powerful. Effective. Fast.
And great value for money.
They can drill through the toughest surface - but not on your pocket.
Make an impact.
Grab a BOSCH Drill now.
BIGGER SAVINGS! MORE GIVEAWAYS!
FREE!
Bosch T-Shirt with every unit of GBM 450/RE, GBM 13HRE, GSB 16RE, GSB 20-2
Offer good up to April 30, 2001
BOSCH
Power In Your Hands
ROBERT BOSCH INC. G/F Zuellig Building, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City Tels: 817-3231/844-8835 Fax 843-8144
DEALERS: **MANILA** - NKD Int'l 711-6916 & 23 / 711-4791 • Hi-D Indt'l 241-3870-71 • Panda Const. 242-8154 to 56 • Goldrich Indt'l. 242-9356 / 242-8174 • Hans Infinite Tools 252-6141-45 • Kingsteel 733-1882 • Leong Seng Hdwe. 733-5288 • Best Achievers 733-0974 • Iris Commercial 733-4629 • Yale Hardware 251-9531 • Bon Indt'l 734-2740-44 • Copper Trdg 733-6478 • Ace Hardware - SM Manila • Hardware Workshop - SM Manila / SM Sta. Mesa / SM Carriedo / SM Harrison Plaza • Handyman - Robinson's Place Ermita • Workstation - Harrison Plaza **KALOOKAN** - Toolwind 367-6291 / 366-0708 • Crown Mill Supply 364-2680 • St. George Trdg. 365-3365 • Airtech Ind'l Corp. 364-4110 • New Stainless 365-9014 • Harrows Ind'l 362-3887 **QUEZON CITY** - Fil-Am Hdwe - Cubao 912-5555-63 / Baesa 362-5555 to 60 • Amity Hardware 927-2642 / 920-6273 • Rolin's Mercantile 410-5270 / 727-1371 • Panda Const. 716-8361-62 • Anonas Const - Kamias 922-1454/922-7140/Tandang Sora 924-2752 / 924-8674 to 79 • Ace Hardware - SM Fairview / SM Cubao • Handyman - All Mall / Fairview Center / Waltermart Violago Center / New Farmers Plaza • DIY Shop - Ever Commonwealth • Hardware Workshop - SM City / SM Annex **CAINTA** - True Value - Sta. Lucia • Handyman-Robinson's Cainta • DIY Shop Ever Cainta **ANTIPOLO** - Pornel Mercantile 249-0669-70 **PASIG** - DIY Shop - Ever Gotesco **MARIKINA** - Handyman Riverbanks • Sygal Int'l 942-1818 **MANDALUYONG** - Bosch Shop - Shangri-la 633-6990 / 634-8016 • Ace Hardware - SM Megamall • True Value - EDSA Shangri-la • Handyman - Galleria/Star Mall Manuela **MAKATI** - Irwin Hdwe 833-7978 • True Value - Park Square 1/Power Plant, Rockwell • Hardware Workshop - SM Makati • Handyman - Waltermart Pasong Tamo **PARAÑAQUE** - Irwin Hdwe 820-4776/825-9458 • Workstation Airport Citimall Sucat **LAS PIÑAS** - Ace Hardware - SM Southmall • Hardware Workshop - SM Southmall **ALABANG** - Tools Spezialist - Festival Mall 850-3939 / 850-4040 • Ace Hardware - Festival Supermall • Handyman - Metropolis *LUZON:* **BAGUIO** - Northlander (074) 442-2911 / 443-8508 • Mt. Builders - (074) 422-1177 • Handyman - Baguio Center Mall • DIY Shop - Cpyeesan Mall **PANGASINAN** - SK Hdwe. (075) 522-2559 • Probuild Improvement (075) 523-4113 • DIY Shop - Magic Mall/ CSI CitiMall Dagupan/Urdaneta • Dagupan Tony's Lumber (075)522-0477 **PAMPANGA** - Asumco Paint (0455) 602-0150 • Ace Hardware • Handyman-Magic Star Mall Tarlac **CABANATUAN** - Handyman - Mega Center • T & T Home Improvement Center • Hdwe Depot **SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION** - Centro Lumber (072) 888-3518 **CAVITE** - A.B. Congbalay Indt'l. Sales (046) 434-0292 / 434-1881 • Colorway (046) 970-1892 • Fixtoch (046) 870-2360 • Ace Hardware - SM City Bacoor • Handyman - Waltermart Carmona/Dasmariñas/Robinson's Place Imus **BATANGAS** - Genasco Mktg. (043) 723-0451 • United Hdwe. (043) 980-0757 **LAGUNA** - Platero Indt'l. & Const. (02) 899-2628 • Cresar Enterprises (049) 837-3407 • Handyman - Robinson's Los Baños/Waltermart-Calamba/Waltermart Sta. Rosa • DIY Shop - Target Mall Sta. Rosa • Workstation Pavilion Mall **LUCENA** - Hanson Ent. (042) 710-2052 • Polaris (042) 710-6404 • Silangan Marine (042) 710-2959 **LEGASPI CITY** - Handyman - Robinson's **NAGA CITY** Handyman LCC Express Mart *VISAYAS:* **BACOLOD** - CY Ong Multi-Distributors (034) 434-4360 • DEKA Sales (034) 435-1573 • LCC Hardware (034) 433-6171 to 76 • Handyman Robinson's Place **CEBU** - Cebu Belmont Inc. - Mandaue (032) 346-4568-69 / Pleridel (032) 254-1454 • Cebu Bionic - Mambaling (032) 262-2851-54 / Juana Osmeña (032) 253-3173 / Magallanes (032) 254-9041 • Cebu Atlantic - Aranas (032) 261-0971 to75 / Mandaue (032) 346-2665 / Talisay (032) 273-0975 • Yale Hardware (032)255-8891-97 • Ace Hardware - SM City Cebu • Handyman Robinson's Place • Handyman Gaisano Fiesta Mall **ILOILO** - Far Eastern Hdwe. (033) 335-0891 • Ace Hardware - SM City Iloilo • Handyman - Marymart Iloilo • Handyman Gaisano Mall **ROXAS CITY** - Handyman Gaisano **DUMAGUETE** - Rejoice Hdwe (035) 422-6762 • Moriah Enteprises (035) 225-3441 • Octagon Hardware (035) 225-4661 **TACLOBAN**- Washington Trdg (0530 325-5978/321-2143 *MINDANAO:* **BUTUAN** - Butuan Champion Hdwe. (085) 341-5040 **CAGAYAN DE ORO** - Oro Solid (08822) 729-9213 / 725-418 • De Oro Const Supply (08822) 726-027 • JS General Merchandising (08822) 723-859 • HBL Mktg (08822) 726-056 • Jejors Ent (08822) 726-164 • A & A Const (08822) 726-062 • Mackun Mktg.(08822) 725-465 • Handyman Limketkai **COTABATO** - Chesco Ind'l Sales (064) 421-7117 **DAVAO** - Tebros Hdwe (082) 227-7429 / 227-7937 • Davao Diamond (082) 227-6795 • JH Hdwe (082) 221-3521-22 / 227-2272 • Davao Cathay Parts & Hdwe (082) 227-7743 • Handyman - Gaisano Mall **DIPOLOG** - Ivy Const (065) 212-4558 **GEN. SANTOS** - G.S. Supreme Mercantile - Main (083) 552-2761 / 552-2584 / KCC Mall (083) 554-4888 / 554-5888 • Dadiangas Glass (083) 552-2970 / 552-4122 • Ecco Merchandising (083) 552-3721 **OZAMIS** - Guia Ent (088) 521-0304 **OROQUIETA CITY** - SBU Const Supply (088) 531-1187 **ZAMBOANGA** - Nationwide Sales Corp. (062) 991-2379 / 991-2420 • Manila Bazar (062) 991-2529 / 991-1981 • Chiu Tian Un Hdwe (062) 991-1430 • Zenith Const. (062) 991-1998 / 993-1645
Prices in provincial areas may be slightly higher.
Per DTI NCR Permit-# 0083. Series of 2001



If you love your Car, you will love...
CARRYBOY®
The Name of Quality and Design
Branded Quality Accessories for Pick-ups & 4X4s
• CARRYBOY Canopy Model 560
• CARRYBOY for F-150 and Nissan AD Resort
• Roll-N-Lock
• Rollbars
• Gatorcab Bed cover (all designs)
• Y2K Sport cover (all models)
Specify CARRYBOY.
Go all the way CARRYBOY for your Pick-up.
It's a Lifetime Investment for you & Your Family.
VISIT YOUR NEAREST DEALER NOW!
Or Kustom Klassiks/ Gatorcab 94 Banawe St., Q.C.
☎ 740-0525 · 740-0530 · 732-3109 web www.gatorcab.8m.com

• Original • Trendsetter
CARRYBOY™ 4x4 OFF ROAD
The Name of Quality and Design
ISO 9001 Certified
Passed European TUV
German quality standards
Only rounded Canopy perfectly levelled with the Pick-up's roof (Check it out now!)
Unbreakable rubber spoiler
Lightweight rear glass
12 MONTHS WARRANTY
Now, exported to 130 countries.
The Canopy supplied to OEM Quality Standards here and abroad.
The Most Luxurious Canopy available
20 years in the Making...
Specify CARRYBOY.
The only Rounded Canopy with the PERFECT FIT!
All glass are tempered as an added safety feature.
Heavy duty Kwik-Klamps tried & tested for 5 years. (NO DRILLING AND REMOVABLE)
Durable Patented frameless curved rear glass door.
Built-in drain channels under the frame guarantee no clogs.
Anodized Black oval-shaped roof rack.
New Options for your CB 560 Model
Rear mirror
No drilling on the Canopy
JAPANESE SEAT
AIRCON KIT
Super Rack w/ built-in clamps
Utility Box w/ keys
VISIT YOUR NEAREST DEALER NOW!
Or Kustom Klassiks/ Gatorcab 94 Banawe St., Q.C.
☎ 740-0525 · 740-0530 · 732-3109 web: www.gatorcab.8m.com

Schumacher beats M'sia GP rivals

SCHUMACHER

SEPANG, Malaysia—Michael Schumacher became the most successful driver in the modern Grand Prix era yesterday when he blitzed the field in an incident packed, rain-marred Malaysian Grand Prix.

In a magnificent drive, he showed why he is the master Formula One tactician and king of the wet as he scored his sixth successive victory, the most by any living driver.

After surviving an early diversion on to the grass, Schumacher went on a six lap charge, making the rest of the field look like they were tip-toeing around the soaked track, as he surged from 11th to the front and was never headed.

He cruised home 23.6 seconds clear of Ferrari team-mate Rubens Barrichello, after leading by more than a minute at one stage.

McLaren-Mercedes driver David Coulthard, at the head of the field when cars spun in all directions as the downpour came on lap three, could not match the pace of the Ferrari's on a drying track and had to be content with third.

With the brief storm creating almost undriveable conditions, the pace car came on the track until the 10th lap and when the race reopened Schumacher let fly and by lap 16 he was in front.

Schumacher's dominance came from his choice of intermediate tyres when the rain came while other's opted for full wets.

He said luck was on his side after being held up for nearly a minute with the tyre change.

"The conditions were really atrocious, undriveable I'd say, and we were lucky not to be lapped by the safety car," he said.

"Then when the green flag came out we were only 10 seconds behind the lead car."

It was Schumacher's second consecutive win on the purpose-built Sepang track and Ferrari's third after former driver Eddie Irvine's success in 1999.

In a race, delayed by the need for two positioning laps, first by Giancarlo Fisichella lining his Benetton on the wrong side of the track, then by Juan Pablo Montoya's Williams stalling on the line, Heinz-Harald Frentzen came through for fourth in his Jordan.

Ralf Schumacher, who spun off when trying to round Barrichello on the first corner, fought his way back up to fifth, just holding off a fast finishing Mika Hakkinen who set the fastest lap of one minute 41.642 seconds.

Coulthard admitted his decision to go for full wet tires was wrong in hindsight.

"When the rain came it was wet on one half of the track and dry on the other. It looked torrential and I hadn't seen the safety car come out.

"If I'd known the safety car was coming I would have taken intermediates."

Night of regrets

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

RACING fans regretted having placed their bets on the outstanding favorite in Race 7 last Thursday night at San Lazaro.

The horse who goes by the name of No Regrets was everybody's *patok na patok* that night.

It was Winner-Take-All bettors' *paninggel* and *patawirin*, racing jargons for a sure bet.

Unfortunately, No Regrets, a four-year-old bay colt, ran as if he did not tally more than P900,000 in daily doubles sales.

Also going down the drain with his loss was more than a million *kareristas'* bets in the WTA, extra double and forecast events.

No Regrets, handled by veteran Gerardo Biazon, was badly beaten by Enseguida, a seven-year-old mare who won in wire-to-wire style.

Biazon, as what *kareristas* do with jockeys who lose atop odds-on choices, was lustily booed and jeered on his way back to the weighing scales.

Luckily for him, Biazon was not penalized, putting a frown on the faces of thousands of fans, both at the racetrack and various off-track betting sites in Metro Manila.

Kareristas are wondering why the nimble-footed No Regrets, boxed in stall No. 1, was not able to take the lead at once, while Enseguida handily barreled ahead despite barging out from the seventh box.

But Biazon defenders claimed that No Regrets was really "labas" (out to win) in that race and Enseguida was simply too much for him.

"*Kahit siguro ulit-ulitin di mananalo si* No Regrets *kay* Enseguida," said a Biazon fan.

The Manila Jockey Club stewards must have seen it that way in allowing Biazon to escape sans a punishment.

Incidentally, another horse did a No Regrets last Friday night.

Gimme A Ring, the heavy favorite, lost to Getta Pen, the longest shot in the field of six entries, in another race that left *kareristas* scratching their heads.

***

Sports in Pasay City is currently enjoying a boom, thanks to civic leader Connie Dy.

Among Dy's main projects are the holding of basketball tournaments and clinics in the city with no less than former cage stars Samboy Lim and Hector Calma at the forefront.

And if plans push through, Johnny Abarrientos, a close friend of Dy's husband Joey, may also grace the said events.

Connie Dy, who landed a strong second among 38 candidates, when she ran as city councilor three years ago, founded the Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo-Connie Dy Poverty Alleviation Center in Pasay City which provided residents with free medical consultation, dental service, aerobics lessons and computer education among, other things.

Athletes protest march today

BY JUNE NAVARRO

FORMER weightlifting standout Jaime Sebastian yesterday said efforts to stop the 200-strong Athletes and Coaches Federation from seeking an audience with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo today would only fall on deaf ears.

But Sebastian, spokesman of the ACF and coach of the national weightlifting team, said that former Gintong Alay chief Michael Keon will be given a chance to pacify the athletes before they start marching to Malacañang at 8 a.m.

Fed up with sports officials' "empty promises," the athletes, with their coaches in tow, demanded for a revamp in the top brass of the Philippine Sports Commission. They also lashed at the PSC leadership for neglecting their needs.

In a signed manifesto, the athletes cited deplorable living conditions at their quarters, insufficient meal allowances and inferior training venues, among others.

"We had a brief talk about it last week but I told him (Keon) it would be better if he negotiates directly with the athletes," said Sebastian, the winningest Filipino athlete in the Southeast Asian Games with 19 gold medals.

Besides from Keon, Sebastian said commissioner William Ramirez will also be entertained as negotiator for the PSC.

Earlier, the PSC asked for a dialogue but the athletes thumbed it down.

"This is precisely what the athletes are experiencing. For so long, we have been airing our problems yet instead of listening to us, our leaders keep on directing their efforts on something else," said Sebastian.

What Drives You

CALTEX
Xpress Lube
Havoline

Professionalism

It's the same thing that drives us to give you the stellar service only Caltex can provide. With our professionally-trained mechanics, you can be sure you'll get the best change oil, tune-up and other mechanical services -- at a speed that won't bog you down. At Caltex Xpress Lube, we make sure we do everything right.

Introducing

Xpress Lube
The Lube Service Expert

XPRESS PACKAGES • Premium Engine Oil • Oil Filter • Labor • FREE Interior Vacuum XPRESS PLUS SERVICE PACKAGES • Premium Engine Oil • Power Flushing Oil • Oil Filter • Labor • 22-Point Preventive Maintenance Check • Tire Black • FREE Interior Vacuum

Other Services: Change Oil • Tune-Up • Car Wash • Auto Detailing • Coolant Service • 22-Point Preventive Maintenance Check • Underchassis Service • Brake Fluid Service • *Specialized services are also offered in some outlets:* Wheel Balancing • Wheel Alignment • Major Tune-Up • Major Mechanical Repairs

www.Xpresslube.com.ph

Nationwide Xpress Lube locations:
STATION-BASED XPRESS LUBE: Merville, Parañaque Tel. No. 823-8910 • Meralco Ave. cor. J. Vargas Tel. No. 635-3538 to 39 • Sucat Rd., Parañaque City Tel. No. 820-3273 • West Ave., near EDSA Tel. No. 455-6509 • Kamias cor. Anonas Q.C. Tel. No. 922-6530 • First Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City Tel. Nos. (08822) 732219/732580 • J.P. Rizal, Concepcion, Marikina Tel. Nos. 942-0801/942-0797 • Timog Ave. cor. Benol Ave. Tel. Nos. 411-4701/411-4152 • Lanang, Davao City Tel. Nos. 082-234-5988/234-2139 • Katipunan/Boni Serrano Tel. Nos. 0917-8453210/439-7166/913-4209 • Sumulong Hi-way, Antipolo City Tel. Nos. 646-6897/646-6861 • N.S. Amoranto, Q.C. Tel. Nos. 731-8813/732-4335 • C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City Tel. Nos. 641-0634/641-1203 • Katipunan/Boni Serrano Tel. No. 911-8156 • McArthur Highway, Calumpit, Bulacan Tel. Nos. 049-202-4793/0917-516-1286 • Commonwealth Ave., Q.C. Tel. Nos. 433-7974/932-3677 *STAND-ALONE XPRESS LUBE:* 941 EDSA, Philam Life, Q.C. Tel. No. 921-2203 • Balibago, Angeles, Pampanga Tel. No. (045) 3229048 • Tunghaan, Minglanilla, Cebu Tel. No. 032-272-1897 • 101 Dña. Soledad Ave., Better Living Subd., Parañaque Tel. No. 821-1213 • 195 A. Tuason, Sta. Elena, Marikina City Tel. Nos. 645-5998/934-2778 *SOON TO OPEN:* Airport Rd., MIA, Parañaque Tel. No. 0919-6303776 • Pantoc II, Daan Sarile, Cabanatuan City Tel. Nos. (044) 600-2608, 463-1051, (0917) 566-0812 • Calamba, Laguna *More Caltex Xpress Lube Outlets Soon To Open*

Xpress Lube
The Lube Service Expert
What Drives You
CALTEX

CALTEX
Xpress Lube
On The Move

Introducing
CALTEX
Xpress Lube
On The Move

Expert services delivered to your doorstep:
- Change Oil
- Tune-up
- 12-Point Check-up
- Preventive Maintenance
- Car Wash
- Vacuum

Call 825-7232 (South MM) and 415-6020 (North MM)

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

RP cagers sparkle

By Roy Luarca

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippine Men's Team repulsed the spirited challenge of Cebu-Lhuillier to prevail, 77-74, and rule the 1st Bert Lina-Jam Mercado Battle of Champions at the oven-hot Aquino Coliseum here.

Ahead by 10 points with barely three minutes left, the Nationals dropped their guards and suddenly found the Jewelers right behind and

RP CAGERS/ A21

Literal, Torre Forum guests

QUINTILLANO "Tiny" Literal makes his first public appearance as the official president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) when he appears in this week's edition of the PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn. Grandmaster Eugene Torre, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP), will share the limelight with Literal in the program.

Miñoza bags ₱4M in Japan

By Jong Arcano

FILIPINO star Frankie Miñoza overhauled a nine-shot deficit to forge a sudden-death playoff with Eiji Mizoguchi of Japan but settled for second place when he bogeyed the extra hole in the Dydo Drinco Shizuoka Open at the Shizuoka Country Hamaoka course in Hamaoka, Japan.

Mizoguchi's second double-bogey in the final round on the 18th enabled Miñoza to tie him in first place after regulation play at eight-under 279. While the Filipino fired the best round of the day, a four-under 68, the Japanese soared to a 77.

On their return trip to the 377-yard, par-4 18th, Mizoguchi made up for that big miscue with a decisive par that gave him his first victory since 1994. He won $167,000.

Miñoza, making up for his mediocre showing of 49th place last week in the Token Cup, pocketed $83,000 (about P4 million) for his best finish in the Japanese Tour in two years.

He also jumped to third place in the Order of Merit behind Mizoguchi and Token Cup winner Shingo Katayama.

Miñoza, whose last victory came in the 1998 Kirin Open and had a second place finish in the 1999 Georgia KSB Open, strung up three birdies from the second, got to five under with two more birdies on the 11th and 12th before taking his lone bogey for the day on the 16th.

In the Standard Register Ping tournament in Phoenix Arizona, Dorothy Delasin shot a 70 to climb to a share of seventh place with a 208 aggregate going into the final round.

Delasin, racking up five birdies, boosted her chances of finally notching a Top 10 finish this season even as Annika Sorenstam held on to a three-stroke lead over a fast-charging Se Ri Pak.

Sorenstam's 69 was not enough to sustain her breakaway after a record-breaking 59 in the second round as Pak shot a 63 to close the gap to three with a 196 aggregate. Still, Sorenstam set a new 54-hole record of 193.

Jenny Rosales stumbled with a 74 and was among those in 43rd with a 215 aggregate.

In the Wills Indian Open, Gerald Rosales charged into the title picture after a third-round 70 put him just three strokes behind in third place.

Shell 5 keeps pace with SMB

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GAMES WEDNESDAY (Philsports)
5:15 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Tanduay vs Alaska

SHELL Velocity may be very good at coming from behind but last night it proved to be even better in maintaining the lead down the stretch.

Fresh from their sensational overtime win over San Miguel Beer where they rallied from 20 points down, the Turbochargers averted the Gin Kings' endgame burst to win, 75-68, in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at Ynares Center.

Their second straight win put the Turbochargers to the top spot along with the Beermen with a 7-3 record, two games short of making the twice-to-beat edge.

The Gins' comeback trail was anchored on rookie Mark Caguioa, who drilled 15 of his career-high 24 points in the fourth quarter to put his team to within four (65-61) from 12 points down.

But Ginebra's stand eventually wobbled because Caguioa didn't get enough support from the Gins' superstars to fall to 5-5 in a tie with Alaska Milk.

Patrick Fran, whose father died yesterday, insisted on playing to lift Mobiline past Sta. Lucia Realty, 57-53, in the second game. Fran hit two free throws in the final minute as the Phone Pals won their third straight for a 5-5 record, while the Realtors bowed out of contention at 2-8.

Scores:

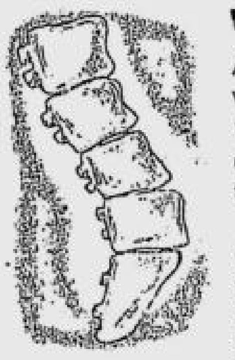
SHELL 75—Esplana 20, Hrabak 12, Jackson 11, Wainwright 11, Telan 8, Marzan 7, Lim 2, Dualan 2, Dela Cruz 2

GINEBRA 68—Caguioa 24, Limpot 10, Meneses 8, Magtulis 5, David 4, Helterbrand 4, Calpito 4, Crisano 4 Castelo 3, Ong 2.

Quarters: 17-13; 30-30; 52-44, 75-68.

NBA results—Detroit 106, Atlanta 90; Charlotte 95, Washington 93; Miami 95, Vancouver 81; New York 101, Chicago 80; Dallas 109, Phoenix 99; Houston 103, San Antonio 99; Milwaukee 87, Philadelphia 78. *AFP*

MSD HEALTH NEWS



What is osteoarthritis?

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability around the world. Arthritis is a term encompassing more than 100 disorders that affect joints, cartilage and connective tissues in the body, including muscles, tendons and ligaments.

Osteoarthritis (OA), sometimes called the 'wear and tear' disease, is the most prevalent form of arthritis. It is marked by the degeneration of cartilage at the joints. This loss of cartilage causes the bones to rub against each other, resulting in pain, stiffness and decreased mobility. Swelling and other signs of inflammation may also be present.

What causes osteoarthritis?

The cause of OA is unknown, but key risk factors include increasing age, female gender, a history of joint trauma and/or repetitive stress, obesity, metabolic or endocrine disorders, congenital or developmental defects, and prior inflammatory joint disease.

What are the symptoms?

Unlike some other forms of arthritis, inflammation is not a chronic symptom of OA, although patients may experience periodic inflammatory flare-ups.

Signs and symptoms that suggest OA include:

1. Pain, which is usually made worse with exercise
2. Stiffness in the morning or after inactivity, which subsides within 30 minutes to one hour of moving the joint
3. A grating feeling or sound when the joint is moved
4. Localized warmth and swelling at the joint
5. Limitation of joint movement with the possibility over time of the joint "freezing" into a bent position

How Well Do You Manage Your Osteoarthritis?

How prevalent is the disease?

OA occurs more commonly among women than men. Men usually have OA in the hip, whereas women are more often affected in the knee, finger and toe joints, or base of the thumb.

OA usually begins after age 40, develops slowly over many years and lasts for life. In more than 75% of all people over age 60, X-rays show signs of OA.

How is osteoarthritis diagnosed?

Diagnosis of OA is often made by analyzing the patient's history and performing a physical examination. Typical signs of the disease include narrowing of the joint space and bony proliferations at the affected joint. X-rays may be taken to confirm the diagnosis of OA.

What are the approaches to treatment for osteoarthritis?

The goals of treatment are to relieve pain and inflammation, preserve or improve joint function, minimize side effects of medications and prevent or delay surgery.

OA requires individualized treatment, usually combining nonpharmacologic approaches (e.g., weight loss, exercise, use of hot/cold compresses) with medications that relieve pain and inflammation. Joint replacement and other surgical procedures may be options for patients who fail to respond to more conservative approaches.

Why is exercise important?

Staying active is important for people with osteoarthritis. By understanding how exercise can help OA, you can keep your joints mobile, reduce your symptoms and improve your overall level of fitness. Your doctor will need to help you in preparing for exercise by assessing you and your condition and then recommending exercises that will help you most. There are several different types of exercises and activities for OA that your doctor may prescribe for you, many of which can be incorporated into everyday activities.

What types of exercise are helpful?

Exercise should not, and need not, be a chore. The best way to exercise is to do something active that you enjoy for a few minutes every day. Try making it part of your social life by doing your daily exercise with friends, or make it part of your normal daily activities. By making exercise something that you do for relaxation and enjoyment, you will be more likely to keep it up.

1. Walking is an excellent aerobic exercise that improves your cardiovascular fitness while keeping your joints mobile. Walking has been shown to be beneficial to people with OA, improving fitness and reducing joint pain and tenderness.

   Remember to start slowly, doing just a few minutes each day. Wear comfortable shoes with thick soles that cushion your feet and prevent jarring. Try to walk on soft surfaces, like grass, to help prevent damage to your joints.

   Make walking part of your daily activities, like walking the dog, playing golf or taking a stroll around.

2. Swimming is very good for people with OA, making it possible to exercise while reducing the strain on the joints. Swimming can be a very sociable activity. You might want to join a local swimming group or find out if your pool has special swimming and exercise programs for people with arthritis.

3. Cycling is a good exercise for people with OA because, like swimming, it allows you to exercise while taking the weight off your joints.

   If you don't feel comfortable cycling outside, you could do stationary cycling instead. Stationary cycling allows you to exercise without fear of falling off and can be done regardless of the weather. You can also set it up in front of the television and cycle while watching a favorite program.

What are the options available for a better tolerated medication for osteoarthritis?

Prescription and over-the-counter non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have traditionally been used to treat the pain and inflammation caused by osteoarthritis, yet many people experience serious stomach side effects such as perforations, ulcers and bleeding.

Until the early 1990s, scientists believed that NSAIDs worked by blocking a single enzyme called cyclooxygenase (COX) that manufactures prostaglandins, which were known to cause pain and inflammation. In 1992, however, investigators discovered that there are actually two COX enzymes, COX-1 and COX-2. They realized that while COX-2 is believed to be involved with generating prostaglandins that cause pain and inflammation, COX-1 produces prostaglandins that protect the stomach's lining. Therefore, treatment of pain and inflammation with NSAIDs, which block COX-1, may weaken the stomach's protective lining, potentially increasing a person's risk for serious gastrointestinal (GI) side effects.

A new class of medicines, called COX-2 inhibitors (Coxibs), has been developed to treat arthritis pain and inflammation. These compounds have been designed to block the action of COX-2 only, leaving the important function of COX-1 intact. This action on COX-2 results in potentially better tolerated pain relief. An example of medicine belonging to the Coxib class is rofecoxib. Clinical studies have confirmed that treatment with rofecoxib provided relief from pain and inflammation with significantly fewer severe stomach side effects compared to NSAIDs. Rofecoxib is the only COX-2 inhibitor approved for relief of acute pain by the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) and the Philippine Bureau of Food and Drugs.

It helps to be aware of the benefits and possible side effects of the medicine you are taking. And don't be afraid to ask your doctor information about your treatment options. While arthritis may be a crippling ailment, knowing more about the disease and its remedies will allow you to overcome its effects and live a healthier and more productive life.

For more information about osteoarthritis and its treatment, consult your doctor. For other concerns, you may call MSD Customer Service Hotline at 878-6338. For outside Metro Manila, call (toll-free) 1-800-1-888-6737.

MSD
MERCK SHARP & DOHME PHILIPPINES
26/F Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

What you should know about
BAD BREATH

Scientific studies found out that bad breath or halitosis is actually caused by sulfurous gases produced bacteria in our mouth. We all naturally have bacteria that live on the back of tongue that assist us in food digestions. Under certain conditions, these bacteria will breakdown proteins and transform them into sulfides which create odor and bad taste.

Money Back Guarantee

The cure. Therabreath™ System, is the only medication known today that effectively attack bacteria at its root. Guarantees to eliminate *bad breath* and related problems of *bitter/sour tastes, phlegm in throat, thick-pasty saliva, dryness of mouth, post nasal drip, awful morning breath.*

Regain confidence. Therabreath™ System is a product of U.S.A.

To order, call: 895-5532; 895-6775; 897-2466; 895-7718
E-mail: epcfresh@compass.com.ph

The KIA
MULTI PURPOSE
VEHICLES
CERES DROPSIDE
4X2 with PTO
KC2700 4x2/4x4
PANORAMIC
KC2700 CHASSIS
4X2
CARNIVAL
Manual & Automatic
Transmission
RIO
Hatchback/Sedan
PREGIO GS FESTIVAL
RS/SE
SPORTAGE
GRAND WAGON
TURBO DIESEL
PRIDE CD5
ECCO

KIA SIGNET

Signet Mandaluyong
#479 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tel.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949;
531-4424 Fax: 531-4380

Signet Balintawak (Newly Opened)
1240 Edsa Balintawak Q.C.
(Sales) 361-0544; 330-6670; 330-8019; 361-6556
Tels.: 362-5091; 362-5092 (for April)
(Service) 361-0665; 361-8356; 330-6708 Fax: 365-3405

Signet Las Piñas
(Infront of SM Southmall)
Tels: 806-2235; 801-7656;
801-7668; 802-1024 Telefax:806-2230

DPWH to do repair at night A28

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

It's the service, not popularity, that counts A29

Two men in Bulacan shot for refusing Metro trash

BY CARMELA REYES
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—Blood has been spilled on the garbage.

Two farmers were shot and wounded by their three neighbors here on Saturday afternoon for opposing the planned dumping of Metro Manila's garbage in Barangay Sibul.

Police identified the victims as Wilson Cabute, 29 and Ernesto Quiroz, 41, both farmers and residents of Zone 4 in Sibul.

Reports said the suspects, Marcelo Briola, Alvin Villarama and Jimson Villarin, were on board a tricycle that blocked the jeepney of Quiroz and Cabute in Sitio Pangarayuman here. The three men in the tricycle fired at the two men on board the jeep, police said.

Cabute and Quiroz were hit but were able to seek refuge in a nearby house, police said.

Police said the three men were armed with Armalite and carbine rifles and a shotgun.

The three men, police said, had suggested that several dump trucks from Metro Manila be allowed to dump garbage in their village, and they were enraged when they learned that Cabute and Quiroz were urging residents of Barangay Sibul to oppose the proposal.

Supt. Sahiron Salim, leader of the 306th police mobile group in Bulacan, said they learned that Villarin would be paid P500 per truck of garbage dumped in Barangay Sibul.

INQUIRER sources said some waste disposal contractors in Metro Manila had instructed their truck drivers, who happen to be from San Miguel, to look for an area in the town where residents would allow the dumping of trash.

The contractors reportedly would pay a village coordinator P500 per garbage truck. Reports said Villarin's group accepted the deal and were coordinating the garbage dumping in Barangay Sibul.

However, residents in the village led by Cabute and Quiroz were opposing the plan quietly because they were afraid of Villarin's group.

Some residents close to Villarin's group claimed those opposing the plan were envious of the income that Vilarin and his companions would earn from the garbage dumping.

Salim expressed doubts that Sibul officials and San Miguel municipal officials were aware of the plan to dump Metro Manila's garbage in the village.

Barangay Sibul is considered a national historical site because the Biak-na-Bato parks are located there. It is also an important source of potable water for Metro Manila residents as the village watershed is connected to the Angat reservoir.

HUSBAND HUNTED

Businesswoman hacked with samurai sword, shot four times

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A SAMURAI sword was used to hack the head and buttocks of a woman, who was also shot four times in the back in her Quezon City townhouse.

Businesswoman Edna Leal, 40, suffered this gruesome end on Saturday in her Marilena Garden townhouse on Mariposa Street in Barangay Bagong Lipunan.

Leal was found cold, dead and drenched in her own blood yesterday morning, more than seven hours after an unidentified assailant apparently entered her townhouse unit and attacked her, according to investigator PO1 Edwin de la Cruz.

While doing his rounds, townhouse security guard Dennis Alipio found Leal's body about 7:30 a.m. yesterday. It was sprawled behind the main door of the townhouse, De la Cruz said.

Police found the sword and three empty bullet shells at the crime scene. The sword was found bent in the middle, apparently from the force with which it was used to hack Leal.

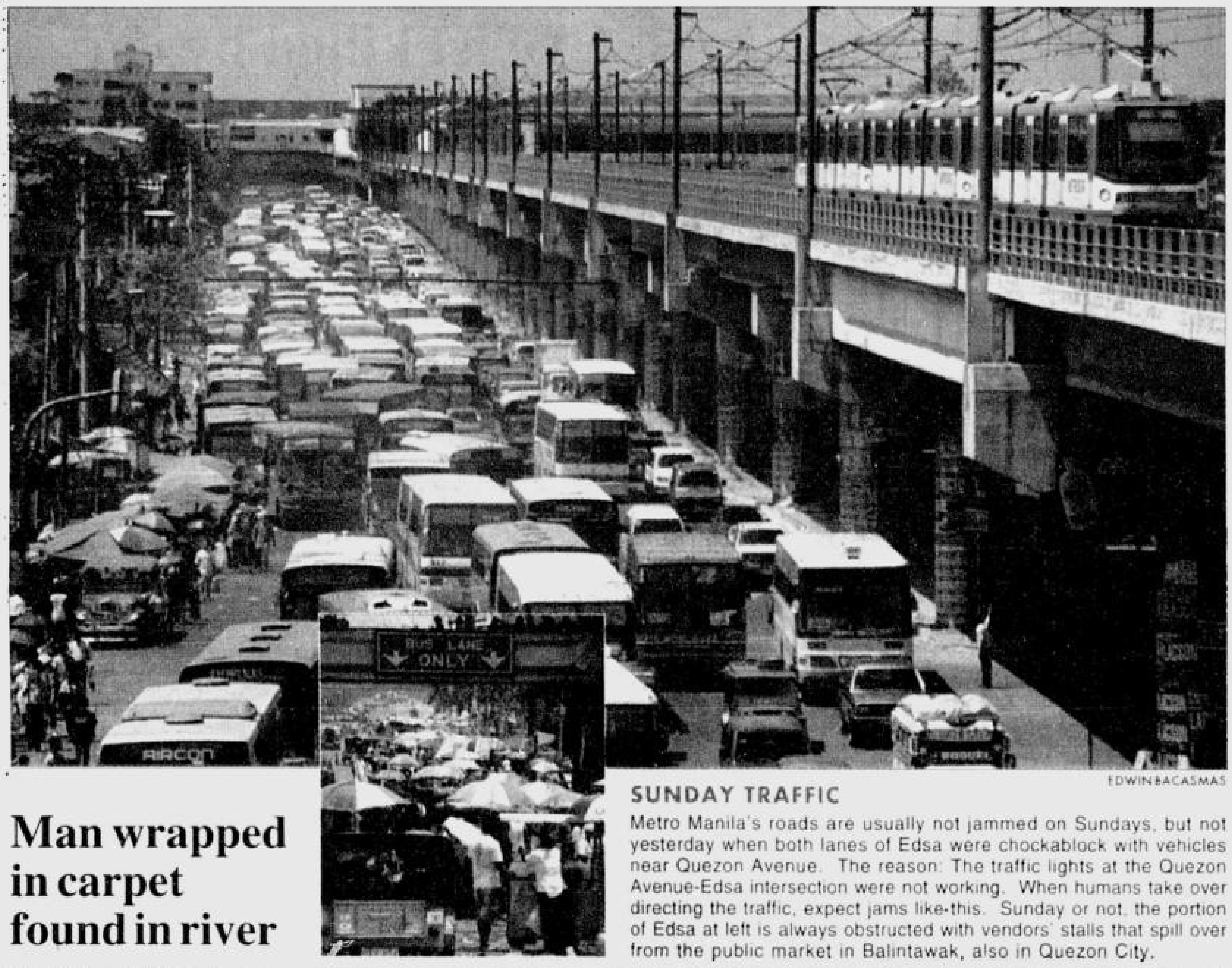
De la Cruz said witnesses allegedly told police that they heard gun shots about 11:45 p.m. on Saturday.

But police are still clueless on the identity of the killer, his motive and his rage.

They are, however, looking for Leal's husband, Rodolfo. Police said he had not even contacted authorities about his wife's death.

The Leals' van was driven out of the townhouse earlier Saturday night, according to an unconfirmed report.

De la Cruz said Leal's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.



EDWIN BACASMAS

SUNDAY TRAFFIC

Metro Manila's roads are usually not jammed on Sundays, but not yesterday when both lanes of Edsa were chockablock with vehicles near Quezon Avenue. The reason: The traffic lights at the Quezon Avenue-Edsa intersection were not working. When humans take over directing the traffic, expect jams like this. Sunday or not, the portion of Edsa at left is always obstructed with vendors' stalls that spill over from the public market in Balintawak, also in Quezon City.

Man wrapped in carpet found in river

POLICE yesterday found the decomposing body of a man wrapped in a carpet, his head wrapped entirely with tape, floating in the Pasig River just under the Jones Bridge.

Police said the victim was 5-foot-8 tall and probably in his 40s. The body was already decomposing when workers in the area found it at about 9 a.m. yesterday.

The body was wrapped in a brown carpet, which made it hard for employees of Tres Amigos Funeral to pull it to dry ground, according to case investigator SPO1 Steve Casimiro of the Western Police District Homicide Division.

When investigators unrolled the carpet, they saw the man's body already peeling, his fair skin beginning to meld with his white polo shirt, denim pants, white underwear, and black high-cut shoes, police said.

MAN/A26

Wazzzzup?

8th day Bar • Café 51 Francis Sq. Ortigas Ctr.	POCKET CENTRAL	NO MIN. CONSUMABLE ☎ 634.7696
AUDIOTORIUM 33 West Ave. Quezon City	FOR THE ROAD	374.2330 / 373.5574
BUMA Grill & Bar 9595 Kamagong St. Makati	COLOR IT RED/MAHA BAND RIDGE/SOUL CAGES	MAR. 21 P100 ENT. P100 CONSUMABLE
Cowboy Grill Alabang-Zapote Rd. Almanza, Las Piñas	PUZZLES HOMOSAPIENS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill 1190 Arqueza St. Mabini	SWEETBLOOD FAT 16/ARTENSION	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill	UNWIND REPLIKA	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches, Q.C.	KNIGHTS MR. ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2088 #47 West Avenue Q.C.	MUZIKJIVE ARPIE & D' MULTIVITAMINS	P 250 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.7181/83
Examiner's LITE n' LIVE #52 Examiner St. Q.C.	HEAT OF THE NIGHT 9 M M	P 80 ENTRANCE FEE HAPPY HOUR 6-9 PM
MUSIC WAREHOUSE 1006 Quezon Blvd. Mla.	RIGHTEOUS ACT BLIZZARD	P 100 CONSUMABLE 735.1405/735.1280
PADI'S POINT MANILA	REY ALBERT	FREE ENTRANCE 527.6180/527.6211
PADI'S POINT MINDAVE 1 Mindanao Ave. cor. Congs. Q.C.	KO-JONES	OPEN UNTIL 2:30 AM 453.0080/925.3117
TIA MARIA'S Remedios St. Malate	X-POZ K A Z	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429
OTHER PLACES		
Cowboy Grill Biñan, Laguna.	MUSIC CIRCUIT H I M I G	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
Jer's II Real Calamba, Laguna	OCA AND RAUL	NO ENTRANCE FEE NO CONSUMABLE
Ka Freddie Music Restaurant Marcos Highway, Antipolo	MARIBETH PAUL ERIC	P 20 ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 677.0795

MONDAY, March 19 912-8983

ANITO & WISE HOTEL

CONGRATULATES...
TUPAD

PANGARAP Part 2

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW WINNERS!
(March 10, 2001)

Grand Prize
2nd Prize
3rd Prizes

Stub No. 848615
72 sq.meter
Condominium Unit
at Las Piñas City

Stub No. 521704
32 sq.meter
Condominium Unit
at Las Piñas City

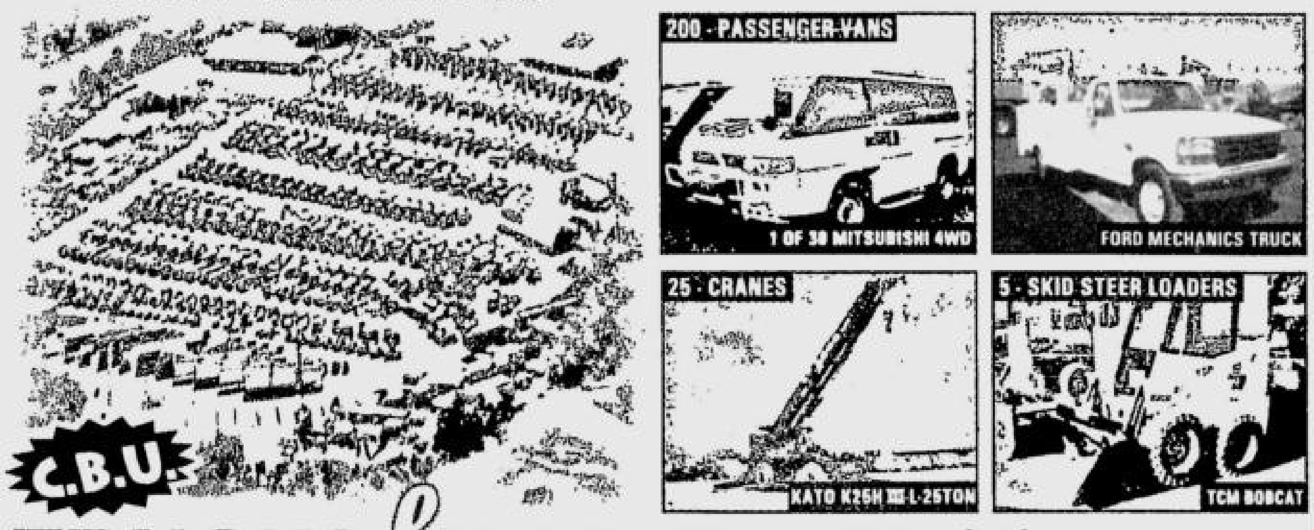
Home Entertainment Packages
Philip 29" colored TV w/ remote control
Philips VCD Mini Hi-Fi Component
Sony Playstation

14 Third Prize Winners

510441	279998	606300	918342
134636	291139	843820	056460
024443	196591	251926	124432
	226080	083010	

Per DTI Permit no.1681 Series of 2000

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC. AIA
presents
The BEST MACHINES FROM JAPAN, U.S., AUSTRALIA, EUROPE & KOREA!
www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
asiainc@svisp.com



TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT
UNRESERVED PUBLIC AUCTION

MARCH 28, 29 & 30, 2001
INSPECTION: MAR. 25-27
Auction Style: PARADE

Call us in MANILA at 531-5751 / 5789 / 5061, or in SUBIC at (047) 252-3333 / 7936 / 6841 • FAX # (047) 252-6840

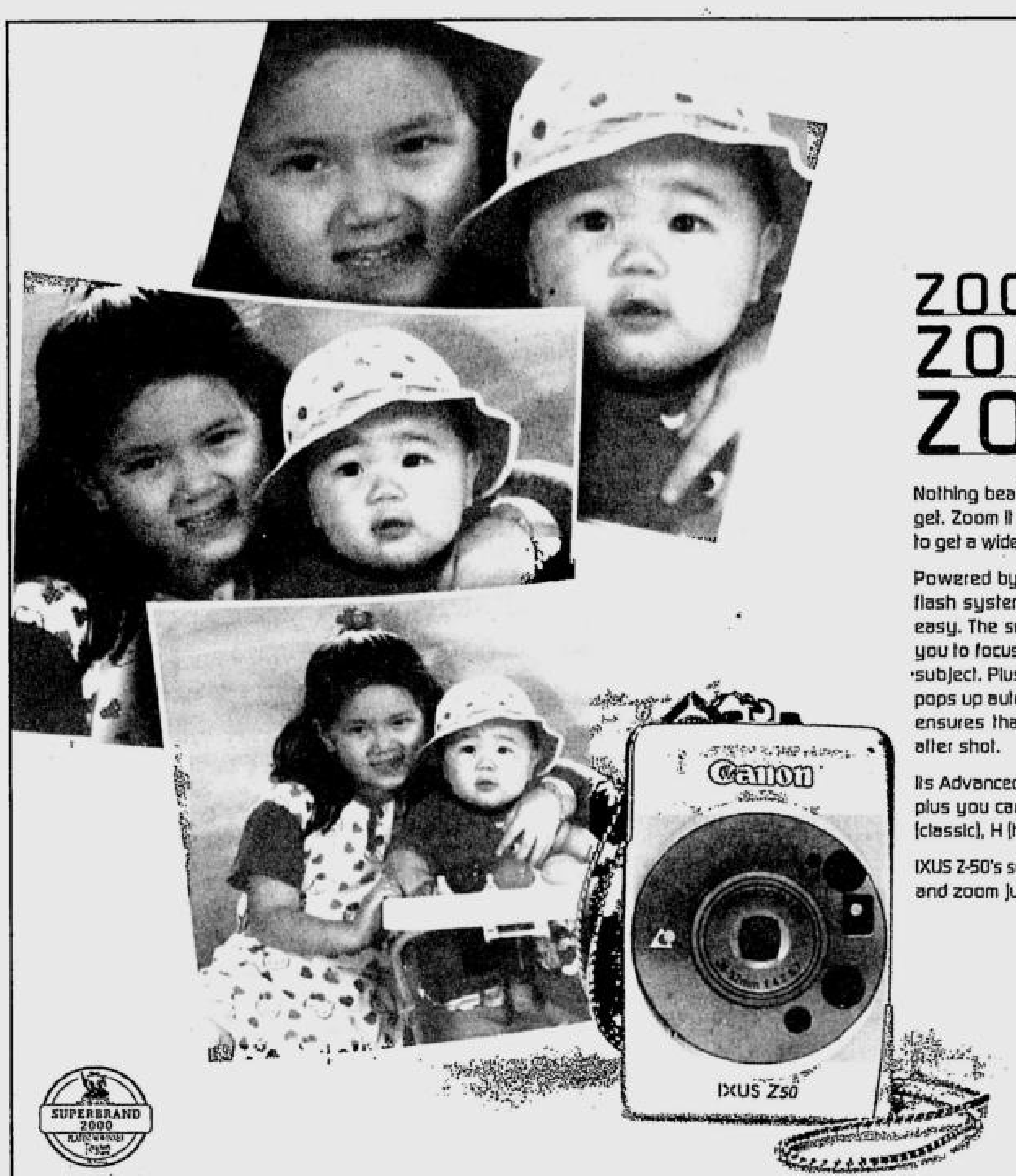
NO MINIMUM PRICE • ALL MUST GO • TAXES & DUTIES PAID

Comunidades
Developers, Inc.
A Quality Lifestyle...Within Your Reach
Call Tels: 850-6560
807-6247 / 850-6586
Project Proponent and
Development Manager

Parque Bonifacio

- The "Comunidades" concept that assures the safest and most affordable way to own your home
- Risk Free – Your equity investment does not go to a developer but to a bank trust in your name.
- Approved bank funding guarantees project completion
- The "Comunidades Alternative" provides "you" the benefit of a prestigious address... and a quality lifestyle
- Fort Bonifacio- No longer the domain of an exclusive few but of a select many
- Your choice: Studio, 1-Bedroom, 2-Bedroom, or 3-Bedroom units

PB Parque Bonifacio
A World-class Lifestyle at Cost



Canon
IXUS

ZOOM
ZOOM
ZOOM!

Nothing beats IXUS Z-50. It's as flexible as it can get. Zoom it in to get a closer shot then zoom out to get a wide-angle shot! Possibilities are just great!

Powered by 2X zoom lens, auto focus and auto flash system, taking pictures has never been so easy. The smallest camera 2X zoom lens enables you to focus as closely as 0.45m away from your subject. Plus with the retractable flash unit, which pops up automatically, and the auto focus program ensures that you get crystal clear pictures shot after shot.

Its Advanced Photo System allows easy film loading plus you can choose from varied shots such as C (classic), H (high vision) and P (panoramic).

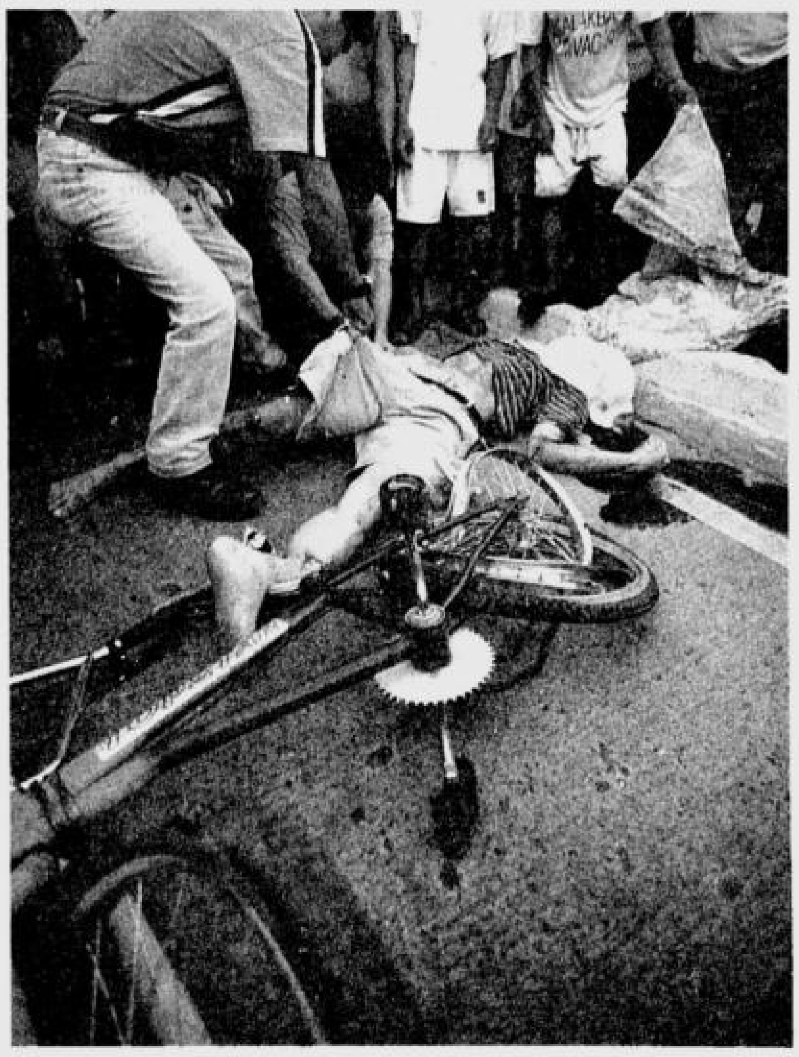
IXUS Z-50's so small and light you can take it anywhere... and zoom just about anything...

SUPERBRAND 2000

CANON INTERNATIONAL SERVICE NETWORK (PHILS.)
Headquarters: G/F Philflex Bldg., 407 Dasmariñas St., Sta. Cruz TEL: 242-2647 • Mandaluyong: 5/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall TEL: 635-6038 • Quezon City: LG/F Main Bldg., SM City North EDSA TEL: 455-2847 • Las Piñas: UG/F West Hallway, SM Southmall TEL: 805-6409 • Iloilo: LG/F SM City Iloilo TEL: (033)320-1957 Manila: LG/F, SM City Tel. 522-6250 • Cebu City: G/F, SM City Cebu Tel. (032) 234-0478

BE PROTECTED FOR 2 YEARS. Always demand for the CANON INTERNATIONAL WARRANTY CARD issued by SUPER EAST ASIA ENT. INC.

AVAILABLE AT BETTER CAMERA SHOPS AND DEPARTMENT STORES NATIONWIDE.



POLICE look for ID cards on victim Sanoria. VALHANDUMON

Cyclist killed by car driven by 19-year-old

STUDENT Victor Panlilio, 19, was arrested late Saturday after he bumped a bicycle in Quezon City, killing a 22-year-old man and injuring the latter's companion.

Panlilio, of Damasco Street, BF Homes, Parañaque, was brought to Camp Karingal.

Killed in the accident was Narciso H. Sanoria, 22, of Marytown Street, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. His injured companion was not immediately identified, said investigator PO1 Renato O. Sunga.

Panlilio was driving a Toyota Corona along C-5 Road when the accident happened around 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Sunga said.

He said Panlilio had just gone down from the Katipunan flyover and was going to P. Tuazon when he bumped Sanoria and his companion on the bicycle, which was going in the same direction.

The impact threw Sanoria and his friend off the bike. Sanoria died on the spot while his companion was brought to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

Police said they were still trying to determine what really happened and have not filed charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide and physical injuries against Panlilio.

Panlilio's family is said to be trying to settle the case out of court. Panlilio declined to talk to the INQUIRER.

Philip C. Tubeza

Man . . .

(From page A25)

Casimiro said the body could have been floating in the river for at least two days already.

The man's head was covered with gray packaging tape, while his hands and feet were bound with black shoelaces, police said.

Initial examination of the body showed no signs of external injury, police said. The man, with his head wrapped in tape, could have died of suffocation, they added.

Christian V. Esguerra

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, March 19, 2001

St. Joseph
1st Reading: 2S 7:4-5, 12-14, 16
2nd Reading: Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Gospel: Lk 2:41-51

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was twelve years old, he went up with them according to the custom for this feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

They thought he was in the company and after walking the whole day they looked for him among their relatives and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

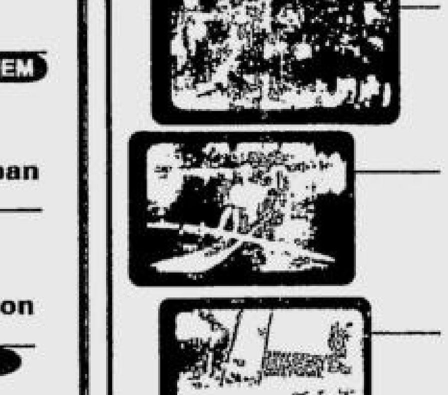
His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." Then he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand this answer.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

Commentary

In any production there are always people who stay behind the scene. But justice is not rendered if in the success of the enterprise due recognition is not given to them. In the Jesus event, such two persons behind the scene are Mary, his Mother, and Joseph, his putative father. The greatness especially of Joseph, who stay even much more behind the scene than Mary, is his doing his duty without much fanfare. He never steals the show. The Gospel episodes point out Joseph's success in rearing Jesus as a devoted Jew. At the eve of becoming a bar mitzvah (son of the commandment), Jesus appears to have come of age, responsible above all to his true Father in heaven who must direct his human life. How responsible are we in the tedious routine of our daily lives? Let Joseph, the just man, lead us the right way.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)



What keeps them Always HEALTHY

ASCORBIC ACID
POTEN-CEE®

Has Now Also Made Them Very HAPPY

Congratulations To All The Winners
And Many Thanks To All Who Joined The
"POTEN-CEEne PANALO" And "Lakbay POTEN-CEE"
Raffle Promos!

POTEN-CEENE PANALO

Mr. Leon C. Borneo
Cebu City
SONY HOME THEATER SYSTEM
1st PRIZE

Ms. Leonora A. Lubguban
Zamboanga del Sur
SONY HANDY CAM
2nd PRIZE

Ms. Bernadette S. Simon
Mandaluyong City
SONY TV & VHS PLAYER
3rd PRIZE

LAKBAY POTEN-CEE

Ms. Vivian Sullera
Caloocan City
TRIP TO HONGKONG + POCKET MONEY
1st PRIZE
Sales Clerk: Ms. Josie Baradi*
Drugstore Outlet: 8th Ave. Drugstore, Caloocan City

Mr. Bong Mariano
Angeles City
TRIP TO PALAWAN + POCKET MONEY
2nd PRIZE
Sales Clerk: Ms. Angie Dalusung*
Drugstore Outlet: Manson Drug, Angeles City

Ms. Shella Doronilla
Davao Del Norte
TRIP TO BORACAY + POCKET MONEY
3rd PRIZE
Sales Clerk: Ms. Alein Vitao*
Drugstore Outlet: Perpetual Pharmacy, Tagum City

CONSOLATION PRIZES

10 units Sony VCD Discman

1. **Mr. Joseph Villahermosa** - Cebu City
2. **Ms. Teresita Yu** - Cebu City
3. **Ms. Mayola Tayag** - Pasig City
4. **Ms. Marina C. Tuico** - Nagcarlan, Laguna
5. **Mr. Raymond A. Jamili** - Pasay City
6. **Ms. Annaliza B. Gungon** - Nueva Ecija
7. **Mr. Jimmy G. Matammu** - Laoag City
8. **Mr. Richard Clarete** - Batangas City
9. **Ms. Bernailaida Ferrer** - Cebu City
10. **Ms. Ailyn C. Arguellas** - Malate, Manila

BFAD NO: 0489

CONSOLATION PRIZES

5 units Sony Travel Discman

		Sales Clerk*	Drugstore Outlet
1. Ms. Teresa Calvo	Bacolod City	Ms. Ma. Armi Duquesa	Negros Graco Pharmacy, Bacolod City
2. Mr. Jon Mafondo	Cagayan de Oro	Ms. Lourdes Empleo	Rosa Pharmacy, Cagayan de Oro City
3. Ms. Maricon Roan Amanda	Batangas	Ms. Helen Lima	Botica Castro/Gen Merchandise, Los Banos, Laguna
4. Ms. Carmelita Batacan	Proj. 8, Quezon City	Ms. Brenda Nino	Family Drugstore, SM City, West Avenue, Quezon City
5. Ms. Mary Jane Coronado	Cubao, Quezon City	Ms. Rosa Bantillo	M/C Healthcare, Quezon City

5 Cameras

		Sales Clerk*	Drugstore Outlet
1. Ms. Aida Bucalan	Taytay, Rizal	Ms. Eleonor Villon	M/C Healthcare, Quezon City
2. Ms. Olivia Habana	Marikina	Ms. Sherill Ann Austria	Family Drugstore, Marikina
3. Ms. Ria Galuza	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	Ms. Ellen Esguerra	Astro Drug, Sta. Cruz, Laguna
4. Ms. Ginhawa Mosana	Novelata, Cavite	Ms. Delma Atolio	Mateos Pharmacy, Cavite
5. Mr. Albert Campo	Negros Occidental	Ms. Mary Ann Modejar	Rose Pharmacy, Bacolod City

* Sales clerks will also win prizes as previously announced.

BFAD NO: 0491

TAKE
ASCORBIC ACID
POTEN-CEE®
The Potent Vitamin C

Pascual Laboratories, Inc.
CONSUMER HEALTHCARE

For inquiries call the Pascual Consumer Healthcare Hotline 926-9451.

Athletes give PSC a failing grade

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THERE could be only one flimsy reason why Philippine Sports Commission chair Butch Tuason has been retained in his lucrative post. Mr. Tuason, a first cousin of the President's husband, has obviously convinced the Arroyo government that he has been performing his assigned tasks quite creditably.

That loud claim is bound to be disproven today.

We have no idea what sort of report card the PSC big boss has presented in order to gain the nod of the President.

It's also hard to say what standards the government has used to measure Mr. Tuason's performance.

Butch Tuason, a certified errand boy of deposed President Estrada, must've produced a stunning performance card that caused President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to break a first rule banning her relatives, and those of her husband, from government.

***

For the record, your deadline beater here has made repeated calls for the current PSC hierarchy to make public its achievements, if any.

After all, the PSC chair has bragged that "if ever I get to keep my job here in the PSC, it's not because of my relationship with the President's husband."

Anyway, what I did after having read that stunning statement by Mr. Tuason was to dig and look back a bit.

Let me restate here what I had discovered about Mr. Tuason's reign as PSC chief.

First, I saw the dismal performance of the Philippine delegation in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad. RP salvaged a lone gold medal, in billiards.

There also was a similarly phony finish in the 1999 Brunei Southeast Asian Games.

Next came the mother of all sporting disasters in the Sydney Olympics where the Philippines failed to salvage a single medal for the first time in 16 years.

After a review, I could only conclude that Philippine sports did not only stagnate, it actually retrogressed under the current PSC management.

Curiously, the fabulous PSC Dream Team, composed of the commissioners who traveled on people's money, made waves in the Sydney Game. That national team, we were informed, fought really hard for gold-medal viewing positions, mainly in the matches involving the US Dream Team in Sydney.

***

Well, President Arroyo must have been fully impressed by these shoddy achievements of the PSC under the rule of her husband's cousin, Butch Tuason.

However, the President could be roused to her senses if a planned march to Malacañang today by current Filipino sports heroes and top athletes pushes through.

Edgard Hilario of the Manila Bulletin reported last Saturday that the athletes' group, led by swimming coach Eric Buhain, has scheduled the protest march today to demand the ouster of top Philippine sports officials.

The report said coaches and athletes from several national sports associations (NSAs) would begin their activity with a picket at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex before marching to Malacañang to demand the ouster of PSC chair Carlos Tuason.

Topping the athletes' complaints, the report said, is the wanton spending on infrastructure projects which they claim has been detrimental to the performance and well-being of the athletes.

The protesters plan to submit an open letter to Malacañang that would detail their accusations against Tuason.

***

You see, after failing to present a decent performance report card, PSC chair Tuason tried to cut corners in an effort to impress Malacañang about his worth. He passed around a resolution that demanded his retention. This resolution was signed by NSA heads under questionable means.

Some sports officials later bared, on conditions of anonymity, that they had been forced to sign the resolution at the risk of losing financial support from the PSC.

Whether or not the athletes' march to Malacañang pushes through today, the protest letter is expected to reach the desk of President Arroyo.

This letter, Madame President, should more or less detail the honest state of affairs in Philippine sports.

Expected to be noted in that letter is the "never-ending and unsystematic renovation and construction of athletic facilities without the benefit of an overall master plan for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the RMSC."

When I first called on Mr. Tuason to state his achievements, I challenged him to fill in the blanks and state what he has done as PSC boss.

He failed to respond.

Therefore, I could not be more than thankful to the bemedalled Filipino athletes who have gone out of their way to provide the necessary answers on why RP sports continue to rot.

The failing grade they have given the PSC was long overdue.

Two QC men shot dead

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO MEN died violent deaths four hours apart in two incidents in Quezon City Saturday night.

Police said Eduardo L. Sanchez, 33, of Sta. Maria Street, Barangay Holy Spirit, was waylaid by unidentified men in front of the Commission on Audit (COA) building on Commonwealth Avenue.

Four hours later, Toshiya B. Okuna, 16, of Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, was killed with a *sumpak* or homemade shotgun.

Sanchez was first to die, said investigator PO2 Joseph Dino. He said Sanchez was walking in front of the COA building when unidentified suspects shot at him about 6:45 p.m.

Lawyer Glenda Bathay and her companion Christopher Baterina, who were on board a car, saw Sanchez sprawled on the pavement and brought him to the Malvar General Hospital where he died at 7:25 p.m. while undergoing surgery.

Some four hours later, another unidentified man shot Okuna with a homemade shotgun.

Okuna was walking on Idong Street when he was shot about 11:30 p.m., police said.

The gunman came out from a dark portion of the road, pulled out the gun and shot Okuna once in the chest, police said. The gunman escaped after the shooting, police added.

Okuna was brought to the Tordesillas General Hospital but was declared dead on arrival at 11:50 p.m.

Three men on motorbike hunted for ₱1.2 M rob

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE are looking for three heavily armed men on board a motorcycle who allegedly robbed a businesswoman and her husband of P1.2 million cash in Caloocan City.

The three men suspects blocked the path of the vehicle of Marina Mariano, 60, and her husband Lamberto, of F. Varona Street, Tondo, Manila, at the corner of Tanigue and Pampano Streets in Dagat-Dagatan in Caloocan, said case investigator PO2 Ronald Subusa of the Northern Police District Investigation and Intelligence Division.

The Marianos were on their way to pay Florida Ubejas, from whom they had bought the new house at 734 Tanigue Street in Dagat-Dagatan, police said. The couple was in a Nissan Ultra pickup (UGU-649) when they were robbed.

Investigation showed that the Marianos had just withdrawn part of the money they had withdrawn from a bank on North Bay Boulevard, Navotas minutes before the robbery.

When the Marianos reached the corner of Tanigue and Pampano streets, three men on board motorcycles blocked their path, took Mrs. Mariano's handbag at gunpoint, and sped toward Navotas, police said.

The bag contained the P1.2 million and documents on the sale of the house, police said.

Fetus found near CR of Miriam College

A SEVEN-MONTH-OLD male fetus was found near the men's toilet inside Miriam's College in Quezon City on Saturday.

School security guard Eduardo Alicaway Jr. found the male fetus during his rounds around 9:30 a.m. near the school auditorium, said investigator PO3 Randy Escobido of the Central Police District's Criminal Investigation Unit.

Escobido said the fetus was found in a trash can outside the toilet. The fetus was wrapped in a plastic bag, he added.

The fetus was later brought to the Prudential Funeral parlor, Escobido said.

Philip C. Tubeza

National Power Corporation

UNDERSTANDING YOUR POWER BILL

You pay your electricity bill every month, right? But do you know *exactly* what goes into your power rates, and *why* you pay what you are paying for the electricity you consume? Probably not. Here then are a few basic facts that could help you understand your electricity bills a little better. . .

The National Power Corporation sells electricity to private utilities and electric cooperatives, which in turn supplies electricity to small end-users like households. NPC charges its customers an effective selling rate which is made up of a basic rate and two cost-recovery mechanisms – the Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (FPCA) and the Foreign Exchange Adjustment (FOREX). As its name implies, the FOREX reflects fluctuations in the country's exchange rate, in particular, the performance of the peso against such foreign currencies as the US dollar and the Japanese yen. On the other hand, the FPCA captures any movements in the domestic prices of fuel and in the cost of power bought by NPC from independent power producers (IPPs). Both the FPCA and the FOREX are used by NPC in computing its selling rate every month. The twin mechanisms are likewise designed to enable NPC to recover any additional costs it may incur if, for example, domestic pump prices go up or if the peso depreciates, or both. Conversely, the FPCA and FOREX allow NPC to pass on to consumers any savings that it generates when fuel prices go down or when there is an improvement in the exchange rate.

Lately, there has been talk about still another cost recovery adjustment – the Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (PPCA) – and how this has caused an increase in your monthly electricity bills. To lessen the recent confusion about the PPCA, allow us to explain what this particular adjustment is all about . . .

The PPCA is a component of the aforementioned FPCA and reflects movements in the cost of power that NPC buys from its independent power producers (IPPs). Contrary to the common perception, the PPCA is *not* a new adjustment, having been approved by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) as early as five years ago, on February 1996. NPC initially applied the said adjustment to its customers in the Luzon grid beginning March 1996. In the Visayas and Mindanao, however, NPC actually started charging the PPA in March 1998, or a full two years after its approval by the ERB.

When it gave NPC the authority to collect the PPCA, the ERB also allowed electric cooperatives nationwide to collect their own version of the PPCA in the form of the Purchased Power Adjustment or PPA. These PPCA/PPA charges are designed to be revenue-neutral, i.e, neither NPC nor the coops generate any additional profits from the imposition of the said fees. The computation of the PPCA/PPA charges is further subject to a monthly and quarterly review by the ERB. This ensures that the computation of the PPA fees is just and accurate.

Contrary to speculations that the PPCA/PPA was implemented without adequate public consultations, the ERB conducted several public hearings on the issue as early as March 1993, when the regulatory body heard NPC's application for the FPCA. Different organizations like the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association and the Philippine Electric Power Plant Owners Association, as well as affected sectors like labor and consumer groups, and other interested parties participated in these public hearings, and their views and concerns were given due consideration.

Given the rising cost of power that we buy from our IPPs, NPC has taken a number of measures aimed at cushioning consumers like you from the impact of our PPCA. For one thing, we have opted to collect the PPCA fees from our customers on a deferred or "installment" basis. At the same time, we continue to shift our fuel utilization in favor of the cheaper fuel sources like hydro, coal and steam. We are also taking a second look at our existing IPP contracts, in the hope that these agreements can be amended to allow us to cut down on our IPP-related costs. In the long-term, NPC continues to push for vital reforms in the power sector, including the unbundling of our tariff rates for greater transparency, and our own privatization, which will pave the way for lower power rates and a more efficient delivery of your electricity supply.

We hope these basic facts about your power rates will help you understand your monthly electricity bills better. As a public service, we will also continue with the monthly publication of our effective selling rate *per customer*, so that you can compare our rates with those of your distributor's. For more information about NPC's power rates, please get in touch with the nearest NPC office in your area or with the Electricity Tariff Division, National Power Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, or call us at Telephone No. 924-5375, or fax us at 924-5372. You can also visit our website at www.napocor.com.ph.

LUZON GRID EFFECTIVE SELLING RATE December 2000

EFFECTIVE RATE COMPONENTS		
Basic Rate, P/kWh		1.8743
FOREX		0.4503
FPCA		1.4083
Fuel	0.4991	
PPCA	0.9092	

CUSTOMERS	Effective Selling Rate P/kWh
S L R C	3.7173
Small Utilities	3.7010
SORECO I	3.7010
Other Utilities	3.6980
Aleco, Inc.	3.6860
Batelec I	3.7142
Batelec II	3.6854
Canoreco	3.7151
Casureco I	3.7412
Casureco II	3.6908
Casureco III	3.7431
Casureco 1V	3.7510
Fleco	3.6673
IEEC	3.6911
Lima Land	3.7055
Mun. of Bauan	3.6703
Quezelco I	3.7342
Quezelco II	3.6591
Soreco II	3.7109
Non-Utilities	3.9269
A. G. & P.	NNLF
Batangas Power	3.7329
B.B.T.I.	NNLF
Babcock Hitachi Phils.	3.9653
Bicol Ice Plant	3.9487
Canlubang Sugar Estate	3.7682
Corderp Ice Plant	3.7884
E. E. I.	4.2569
F.P.I.C.	3.9588
Fortune Cement	3.8981
G. M. C.	3.8982
Goodfound Cement	3.9205
I.R.R.I.	4.0098
Isarog Pulp & Paper Co.	3.8452
Keppel Phil. Shipyard	4.2190
Lipa Ice Plant	3.6760
LMG Chemicals	3.7922
Magellan Cogen Inc.	4.6144
NPC Personnel	3.7329
Pacific Flour Mills	4.1729
PNOC – Makban	3.7329
PNOC-Bacman(FCSD 1)	3.7329
PNOC-EDC	4.1422
Unichem (Cocochem)	3.9047
Union Carbide	4.1555
Uni-Plastic Int'l. Corp./Uni-Lonseal	3.7568
Steel Industry	3.3671
Steel Corp. of the Phils.	3.5303
PUYAT Steel	3.8481
BACNOTAN Steel	3.6620
Government	3.6277
B. S. P.	3.5766
Batangas City Water District	3.4448
Fernando Air Base	3.5126
Forest Product Res. Devt. Comm.	3.9423
Forest Res. & Dev. Bur. (FORI)	3.9181
U. P. L. B.	3.6870
M M R C	3.7285
MERALCO	3.7285
N L R C	3.7089
Small Utilities	3.7105
ABRECO	3.7066
IFELCO	3.7112
KAELCO	3.7138
MOPRECO	3.7195
PMES (NMT for the acct. of PAMES)	3.7134
PRESCO	3.7109
QUIRELCO	3.7048

CUSTOMERS	Effective Selling Rate P/kWh
Other Utilities	3.6928
ANGELES ELECT. CORP.	3.7020
AURELCO	3.7296
BENECO	3.6893
CAGELCO I	3.7291
CAGELCO II	3.7917
CELCOR	3.9525
CENPELCO	3.7036
CONSORT LAND, INC.	3.7356
DECORP	3.6698
INEC	3.7122
ISECO	3.7087
ISELCO I	3.7269
ISELCO II	3.7216
LUECOM	3.6599
LUELCO	3.7208
MANSONS CORP.	3.6843
MUN. GOV'T - NORZAGARAY	3.8817
NEECO I	3.6954
NEECO II	3.6979
NUVELCO	3.7031
OLONGAPO CITY	3.6517
PANELCO I	3.7080
PANELCO III	3.6909
PELCO I	3.6983
PELCO II	3.6961
PELCO III	3.6587
PENELCO	3.6827
SAN JOSE CITY	3.6605
SBMA	3.6570
SFELAPCO	3.6578
TARELCO I	3.7272
TARELCO II	3.7102
TARLAC ELECTRIC, INC.	3.8628
ZAMECO I	3.7114
ZAMECO II	3.7007
Non-Utilities	3.7913
BAGAC-PNPP	3.8115
BATAAN TECH. PARK Inc.	4.3302
BENGUET CORP. BALATOC	3.9296
BATAAN PULP & PAPER MILLS, INC. (BPPMI)	3.6917
CENTRAL CEMENT/BACNOTAN CC	3.8824
COLUMBIAN CARBON	4.7460
COTO MINES – MASINLOC	4.3200
DND-ARSENAL	4.1862
EDONG COLD STORAGE & ICE PLANT	3.7341
EXEMPLAR	4.6686
GAPAN ICE PLANT	3.7535
INGASCO	3.8369
IPO LIMESTONE	4.6971
ITOGON – SUYOC MINES	3.9326
LEPANTO MINES	3.7201
MWSI /MWCI	4.0554
NORTHERN CEMENT CORP.	3.7293
ORICA EXPLOSIVES (Phil. Explosives)	3.9282
PETRON CORP.	NNLF
PHILEX MINES	3.7805
PLANTERS PRODUCT	3.7942
RADIO VERITAS	4.0973
REPUBLIC CEMENT	3.8333
SOUTHERN ENERGY MOBILE, INC.	3.8245
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMIN.	4.9277
SUNRISE PAPER INDUSTRIES	3.9057
TIPCO	3.7553
WESTERN AGRI-VENTURES CORP.	4.0456
Steel Industries	3.6067
ELEGANT/OSAKA ELECT'L . Mfg. Inc.	3.5670
MILWAUKEE IND.	3.6316
SKK STEEL CORP.	3.6101
Government	3.5507
ANGAT MICRO	3.5117
BASA AIR BASE	3.5124
CABCOM - PAF	3.5030
CLSU	3.5931
NIA-AMRIS (San Rafael, Bul)	3.7645
NIA-MRIIS (AMPUCAO)	3.6569
NIA-UPRIIS (Pantabangan)	3.4642
P M A	3.5169

VISAYAS GRID EFFECTIVE SELLING RATE December 2000

EFFECTIVE RATE COMPONENTS		
Basic Rate, P/kWh		2.0525
FOREX		0.4503
CEBU-NEGROS-PANAY		
FPCA		1.2758
Fuel	0.2912	
PPCA	0.6237	
LEYTE-SAMAR		
FPCA		0.9170
Fuel	0.2912	
PPCA	0.5959	
BOHOL		
FPCA		1.6331
Fuel	1.6331	
PPCA	0.0000	

CUSTOMERS	Effective Selling Rate P/kWh
CEBU SUB-AREA	3.9608
Non-Utilities	3.9684
G M C	4.4628
Grand Cement	3.9129
ISLACOM	4.6052
P A F	3.9323
Paras Canteen	3.7786
Phil. Mining Serv. Corp.	4.1949
PNOC-Lab	NNLF
Premer Cement	NNLF
Other Utilities	3.7781
CEBECO I	3.9029
CEBECO II	3.8288
MECO	3.7283
MEPZ 2 (Acoland)	3.7291
VECO	4.0645
LEYTE SUB-AREA	3.3442
Leyte Industries	3.2763
PASAR	3.2063
PHILPHOS	3.4485
Non-Utilities	4.0589
Brgy. Lim-Ao	4.3177
PNOC - E & C	3.7306
Other-Utilities	3.4119
LEYECO I (DORELCO)	3.4840
LEYECO II	3.3790
LEYECO IV	3.5049
LEYECO V	3.4062
Small Utilities	3.4036
BILECO	3.3990
LEYECO III	3.3968
SOLECO	3.4083
NNLF – non-normal load factor	
SAMAR SUB-AREA	3.4128
Other-Utilities	3.4527
SAMELCO II	3.4527
Small-Utilities	3.3966
ESAMELCO	3.3974
NORSAMELCO	3.3993
SAMELCO I	3.3932
BOHOL SUB-AREA	4.1592
Non-Utilities	5.0645
Bohol Enterprise	4.3966
Phil. Sinter (PSC)	NNLF
Other Utilities	4.1172
Bohol Province (PPUD)	4.1172
Small Utilities	4.1805
BOHECO I	4.2789
BOHECO II	4.1254
NEGROS ORIENTAL	3.8092
Non-Utilities	3.8875
DUCOMI	3.9080
NOBEL PHILS	3.8847
PNOC-EDC-PAL (P2)	3.7786
Other Utilities	3.8002
NORECO I	3.8712
NORECO II	3.7833
NEGROS OCC.	3.7767
Non-Utilities	3.9903
SMC-Bacolod	3.9903

CUSTOMERS	Effective Selling Rate P/kWh
Other Utilities	3.7736
CENECO	3.7586
NOCECO	3.8123
VRESCO	3.7930
PANAY SUB-AREA	3.7990
Other Utilities	3.8142
CAPELCO	3.7998
GUIMELCO	3.8168
ILECO I	3.8012
ILECO II	3.8427
ILECO III	3.8433
Small Utilities	3.7593
AKELCO	3.7601
ANTECO	3.7577

MINDANAO GRID EFFECTIVE SELLING RATE December 2000

EFFECTIVE RATE COMPONENTS		
Basic Rate, P/kWh		1.4028
FOREX		0.4503
FPCA		0.5354
Fuel	0.0000	
PPCA	0.5354	

CUSTOMERS	Effective Selling Rate P/kWh
Small Utility	2.3282
SIARELCO	2.3282
Medium Utilities	2.3476
ASELCO	2.3905
BUSECO	2.3649
CAMELCO	2.4194
CLPCO/(COTLIGHT)	2.2909
COTELCO	2.3527
DASURECO	2.3595
DORECO	2.3228
FIBECO	2.3931
LANECO	2.3822
LASURECO	2.3137
MAGELCO	2.3526
MOELCI I	2.3737
MOELCI II	2.3437
MORESCO I	2.3596
MORESCO II	2.3428
PIE/(PHIVIDEC)	2.2197
SOCOTECO I	2.3457
SUKELCO	2.3311
SURNECO	2.3575
SURSECO I	2.3721
SURSECO II	2.4191
ZAMSURECO I	2.3186
ZAMSURECO II	2.3419
ZANECO	2.3530
NNLF – non-normal load factor	
Large Utilities	2.3222
ANECO	2.3999
CEPALCO	2.2740
DANECO	2.3575
DLPC	2.3192
ILPI	2.3337
SOCOTECO II	2.3410
ZAMCELCO	2.3107
Non-Utilities	2.6040
ACC	2.9233
BALOI AIRPORT	2.6983
BUSCO	NNLF
DAVAO HOUSING	3.1198
DMPI (PPC)	2.4760
DOLEPHIL	2.5628
DOTC	2.4225
DUCC	2.6995
GENSAN HOUSING	2.3888
GLOBE PAPER	2.0694
I C C	2.5598
INDOPHIL	NNLF
Industrial Timber Corp.	2.6998
KIBAWE HOUSING	1.9938
MANILA MINING CORP.	2.7497
MCC (PNOC)	NNLF
MENZI AGRI. CORP.	2.8671
M S U	2.4711
M V C	2.4017
NALCO	2.6799
N S C	2.4558
PACEMCO	2.9954
PFC (PILMICO)	2.5267
PICOP (BISLIG)	2.3555
PICOP/ILIGAN (NEWTECH)	2.7166
P S C	2.4774
RMTC (NMTC)	3.0484
SIOM	2.8145

DPWH to do repairs at night

GOOD news for motorists: Road repairs and diggings will now be done only at night to ease the traffic situation in Metro Manila and other urban centers, according to the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong has told all regional directors that "all non-emergency road repair work by the DPWH be done at nighttime" in response to complaints by motorists that even ordinary asphalt patching of roads was slowing down traffic.

Datumanong said if daytime repairs could not be avoided, these must be scheduled on off-peak traffic hours or when the "volume of traffic is at its lowest."

"If it can be avoided, there must be no work during rush hours," he said. "And if we begin road maintenance work at night, it must be completed by sunrise."

Datumanong said that when road works are done round the clock, "the objective is to finish the project as soon as possible."

"The shorter the period of inconvenience, the better for the public," he said.

In his directive to regional DPWH directors, Datumanong stressed the observance of DPWH regulations as to "traffic mitigation and safety precaution measures" during daytime repair works.

These measures include the installation of traffic directional signs and the designation of one member of the repair crew as traffic officer.

Gerald G. Lacuarta

$149 M for rehabilitation of PNR tracks

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority has endorsed a $149-million joint project with Korea for the rehabilitation of the vintage tracks of the Philippine National Railways Corp. and the installation of additional stations from Caloocan to Parañaque.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos approved the resolution of the Metro Manila council in a meeting Thursday and expressed support for the construction of additional passenger stop points as well as the purchase of 10 trams, or 40 cars, for the PNR.

The project, which will be headed by the Department of Transportation and Communication, now needs only the final approval of Malacañang through the National Economic Development Authority, which will study the proposal.

The project will pave the way for the rehabilitation and construction of 11 stations and 10 passenger stop points in the railway that runs through Caloocan, Quezon City, Manila, Makati, Pasay and Parañaque.

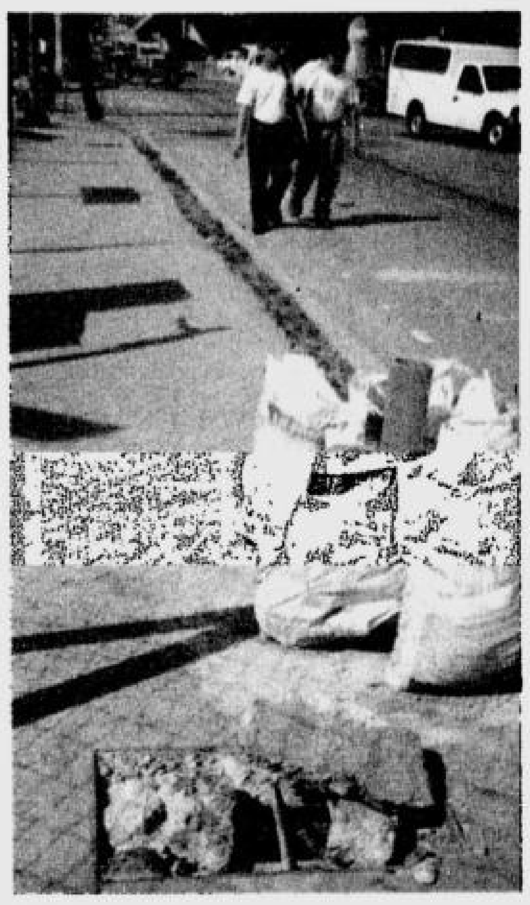
Abalos said the $149 million would come from the Korean Economic Development Cooperation Fund, but the government would still pour in around P12 million into the two phases of the project.

According to the proposal, the first phase of the project, which will be executed next year if Malacañang approves, will usher in the electrification and rehabilitation of the lines from Caloocan to Magallanes, the elevation of the bridge crossing Pandacan and Pasig, construction and improvement of stations and stops, and installation of road controls.

The electrification of Caloocan to Tutuban, double tracking and improvement of the Tayuman-Y junction to the same area, renovation of the Caloocan depot and construction of Tutuban depot and the fencing of the PNR right of way in the station areas will come in the second phase.

In both phases, 20 cars will be installed for additional passenger capacity and service. The project is expected to be finished in 2003.

The trams will be provided by Daewoo, Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Corp., and the Korea Rolling Stock Corp.



ROAD RISK
A faculty member of Miriam College and resident of Quezon City sent this photograph, which he himself took, of a hole at the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard. He blamed the contractor for leaving the uncovered hole. "Perhaps they will regret their irresponsibility . . . when their wife or daughter" falls in the hole, he wrote.

Mayors agree on amusement tax reduction

LOCAL movie producers are expected to get more returns from their box office hits when the 50-percent reduction in amusement taxes takes effect.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Benjamin Abalos on Thursday reported that all 17 Metro Manila mayors have agreed to reduce by half the amusement tax from the original 30 percent.

But moviegoers would have to wait if this tax cut would mean cheaper tickets to the movies because Abalos stressed that it would be up to the producers or movie house owners to also reduce the admission prices to the movies.

While this would mean less revenue for the local government units, Abalos said, local producers and filmmakers would benefit from this new arrangement.

"This would be effective as soon as ordinances (specifying the tax reduction) have been enacted in the respective local government units," he said.

He said it was President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who first brought up the idea of lowering the amusement tax.

In a council meeting also on Thursday, the Metro Manila mayors readily approved the proposal.

Abalos cited Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who he said had even argued in favor of the tax reduction despite the fact that his city, which has the biggest number of movie theaters in the metropolis, would be the most affected by the tax cut.

It was also learned that the Taguig government had already been implementing the tax reduction. The Taguig municipal hall is now charging only 10-percent amusement tax for every ticket sold in local movie houses.

Abalos added that leisure places like beaches and golf courses, among others, would also be covered by the tax reduction.

Agnes E. Donato

Penalty imposed for late water bill payments

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has announced that beginning April, a three-percent late payment penalty charge will be imposed on all water and sewer bills that will be paid beyond the due date.

The three-percent penalty charge will also be imposed on unpaid billings for the previous months.

Maynilad explained that the due date is the date reflected in the customer's statement of account.

Maynilad advised its customers to pay their bills promptly to avoid the penalty.

The water firm said the three-percent charge would be computed monthly, based on all outstanding bills that have not been paid on the due date. The computed late payment penalty charge would be reflected in the customer's next statement of account, it said.

The new policy on late payments was formulated to help customers become more aware of their responsibility in paying their bills on time, according to the firm.

For clarification, customers may call the Maynilad hotline, 1626.

Lawyers' meeting

THE FIRST organizational meeting of the Las Piñas City Bar Association Inc. (LBA) will be held on March 21, Wednesday, at 5 p.m. at Nature's Café, Mary Immaculate Parish on Apollo III Street, Moonwalk Village, Las Piñas City.

All Las Piñas-based public and private lawyers, law professors, law students, public prosecutors, public defenders, court personnel, private paralegal professionals and leaders of non-government organizations involved in free legal aid programs are invited to attend the meeting.

The LBA is also open to lawyers living in other cities but who also actively practice law in Las Piñas City.

Guests and speakers during the meeting are Integrated Bar of the Philippines national president Arthur Lim, and Judge Manuel Fernandez, executive judge of the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Las Piñas City. Also invited are lawyers Charlie Bautista, Angel Gonzales and Nestor de Leon, past presidents of the IBP Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa (PPLM) Chapter, as well as Fr. Pierino Rogliardi and Fr. Fidel Fabile, spiritual advisers of LBA.

For details, call 874-2539, 872-5443 or 872-5446.

GET BPI MAXI-ONE FOR YOURSELF...

It's the superior all-in-one account

Earns interest while giving you checking convenience.

Comes with a fully loaded Express Teller Card

with Express Phonebanking

and Cashless Shopping with EPS.

Lets you pay your bills Check-Free.

Plus, gives you online banking real-time with Express Online.

MECHANICS

1. Promo is available in all BPI and BPI Family Bank GMMA branches from March 19 to April 2
2. Open a BPI MaxiOne or BPI Family Bank MaxiCheck with the required initial deposit
FREE BPI Express Cash

Initial Deposit	Free Item
₱25,000 to ₱49,999	FREE Express Cash Card
₱50,000 and above	FREE Express Cash Card with initial loaded value of

3. The initial deposit must be fresh funds, i.e., not sourced from an existing BPI Family Bank account.
4. To maintain a MaxiOne/MaxiCheck account, a client must have a required ₱25,0
5. The MaxiOne/MaxiCheck client will nominate the Express Cash cardholder upon opening, by filling out an Express Cash application form.
6. The Express Cash card will be available within 3-5 banking days from applicati
Express Cash cards not claimed within 60 days after the end of the promo period will be

BPI FAMILY BANK

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0684 Series of 2001
Member: PDIC (Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor ₱100,000)

Log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com or
express teller
24-hour banking
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
MAXI-ONE
Maximum Performance All-in-One
Check-Free

'It's the service, not popularity, that counts'

By Jerome Aning

WILL the so-called "stars" of the Manila Council, specifically those who are from show business, retain their luster and seats after the May 14 elections?

Comedian-turned-councilor Larry "Pipoy" Silva said movie stars and other show biz people would always be winnable candidates as long as they remain faithful and dedicated to serving their constituents during their term.

Silva, who comes from the city's 3rd district, is one of the five councilors from show biz who are running for reelection. The others are Cita Astals and Roberto Ortega Jr. in the 5th district, Luciano "Lou" Veloso in the 6th, and Francisco Dumagoso (Isko Moreno) in the 1st.

"Whether candidates running for reelection are from show biz or not, it's always the service they gave to the public that counts," Silva told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Silva, who has been in politics for more than 15 years, first as a barangay official and then as a councilor, admitted that it was popularity that initially catapulted him to public office.

"Other politicians spend so much money so voters will know them, but with us artists, it's not a concern at all," he said.

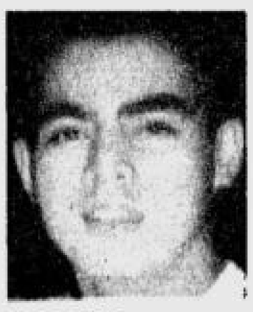
"I just happened to be an artist, and therefore well-known, but if I did not serve my constituents well then I deserve to lose," the two-term councilor added.

As members of the Liberal Party, to which incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza and the majority of the 38-seat council belong, Silva and the other "star" councilors hold important committees that aid City Hall in its many projects.

Silva chairs the committee on amusement, games and entertainment; Astals, the committee on engineering and public works; Ortega, utility and franchise; Veloso, trade and industry; and Moreno, transportation.

Silva said he prefers to be a silent worker in the council. "If there are intrigues in show biz, there are more in politics," he said.

He said he is saddened by the pronouncements of several sectors that movie stars do not deserve to be voted into office.


MORENO

SILVA

VELOSO

"Just because one of us erred, the rest are being held liable," he said, referring to a fellow movie star, deposed President Estrada. "I think that is not right.

"It's the same thing with doctors, lawyers or engineers who run for office. Do we tell them to just concentrate on their careers?"

Asked if his being a politician affected his being a movie star, Silva said, "only a little."

"I still have time to pursue my service career," he explained. "As long as I have time and it's not Tuesday or Thursday (the council's session days), I will accept movie projects."

But he admitted that the number of movie offers he receives has been decreasing over the years. Perhaps, he said, "many producers or directors think I have a lot of money and I don't need a movie to earn more."

Silva said that ultimately, show biz people who are in public office will have to choose what path to take—making movies or serving the public. But he himself would do both while he could, he said.

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Domingo wants Abalos 'private army' under Comelec control

MANDALUYONG City mayoral aspirant Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo Jr. yesterday said he would ask the Commission on Elections to place under its control the "private army" allegedly being maintained by incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos, Jr.

Domingo, who lost to Abalos in the 1998 elections, said Comelec chair Alfredo Banipayo should take immediate action on the armed bodyguards Abalos had allegedly been keeping in the guise of assistance groups.

He cited the Peace and Order and Security Office, which has some 400 members, and the Mayor's Action Command (MAC) and Task Force Anti-Vice, which have about 100 personnel each. He said that the MAC was created without any resolution by the city council.

But Abalos denied his opponent's accusations and in turn accused Domingo of having police officers and even Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel escort him when he withdraws money from banks.

"This has been going on for the last 10 years," Abalos said.

He said the MAC is under the local police.

He said he "even talked to (the police chief) and stressed that he should not allow them to carry firearms." He said they should be arrested if found carrying a gun.

But Domingo insisted "most of them are civilians, but they are armed. The local police cannot even apprehend them because they have the mayor's backing. These groups are actually just duplicating police functions."

MAC is tasked to conduct anti-drug raids and entrapment operations, while the AVG apprehends those who violate city ordinances and secures schools and other establishments in the city.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon Jr., Eastern Police District (EPD) director, said he would order Mandaluyong police chief Jose Gentiles to look into Domingo's complaint and to apprehend all personnel caught carrying firearms without the proper Comelec documents.

But some sectors believe that members of the MAC, as its name conveys, report directly to the Office of the Mayor. It was also learned that only SPO1 Jun Lie, head of the Task Force Anti-Vice, was the only policeman working with the group.

Bagatsing: City Hall officials unprofessional

BAGATSING

MANILA mayoral candidate Amado Bagatsing (PPC-Lakas NUCD) assailed officials from the Manila City Hall for disallowing the senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition from campaigning in the Tutuban Mall in Divisoria.

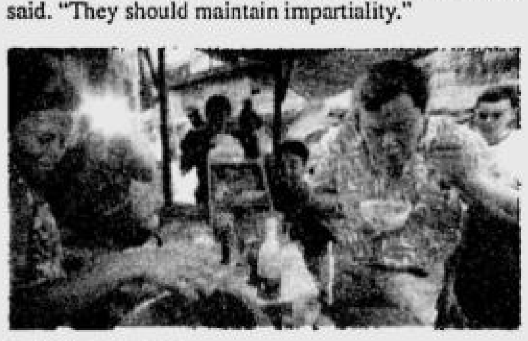
Bagatsing said local government officials in Manila should not be biased against administration candidates who are campaigning in the city.

"Incumbent city officials should be professional enough to permit administration candidates to campaign, especially when they have the proper clearances," Bagatsing said.

PPC senatorial candidates were allegedly denied entry to the Tutuban Mall to campaign among shoppers and were also prevented from holding a rally in Plaza Miranda.

Bagatsing, a former three-term congressman from the 5th district, said they expected more forms of harassment from the local administration.

"I appeal to them to remain apolitical," Bagatsing said. "They should maintain impartiality."


SOUP STOP
Reelectionist Mayor Lito Atienza of Manila takes a break from his campaigning to have a bowl of hot noodles at a street stall in San Andres Bukid. ERIK ARAZAS

Belmonte proposes '911' for Metro

THROUGH text messages and calls from their cellular phones, Filipinos have recently shown they can summon a protest crowd in minutes and even overthrow a president in days.

But techno-savvy he may seem, a Filipino cannot summon a medical team to his door, in case of an emergency at home.

This prompted Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. to propose a "911" emergency response system in Metro Manila and other urban areas in which there are adequate telephone facilities.

"The sad fact is that while a Filipino can 'text' jokes, he cannot send out a message of distress from his phone and expect an ambulance or a police officer to be at this side in minutes," Belmonte said.

The House leader and Quezon City mayoral candidate said Metro Manila's modern phone network should be tapped as the communication backbone of a US-style 911 response system.

"The technology and hardware are already here," he said. "The only thing left to do is reconfigure them so that phone number 9-1-1 will be solely dedicated for the public's emergency use."

For a megapolis such as Metro Manila, the ideal setup is to link all police and hospital rescue teams under a net, or a dispatcher, that is accessible by dialing 9-1-1 on the phone, Belmonte explained.

"But as it stands now, every fire station, police outpost and ambulance service in Metro Manila has its own telephone number. Worse, some do not have phones or previously had until these were cut off for failure to pay the bill."

He said Quezon City, with its relatively high phone density, is one good area in which an honest-to-goodness 911 project can be piloted.

Given the chance, Belmonte said he would prioritize the establishment of a functional 911 rescue system so that help for Quezon City residents would just be "a dial away."

To go with the installation of the 911 system, he said, is the acquisition of more police cars, firetrucks and ambulances.

AND GET A FREE EXPRESS CASH FOR HIM!

Loaded with ₱200 FREE

It's cash he can flash

Easy to use in over 20,000 Mastercard Electronic establishments.

Easy to reload through the branch, through Express Phone, Express Teller ATMs and Express Online.

7. A client may avail of this promo only once. If a client opens another MaxiOne/MaxiCheck account during the promo period, this account does not qualify for the promo. The bank reserves the right to deduct the cost of the free item that may have been awarded for such disqualified account.
8. Existing MaxiOne/MaxiCheck accountholders can no longer join this promo. The exclusion also applies to new clients who open a MaxiOne/MaxiCheck jointly (AND/OR) or in-trust for (ITF) an existing MaxiOne/MaxiCheck client.
9. The free card is not convertible to cash. The free Express Cash initial load of ₱200 cannot also be exchanged for cash.
10. All account openings are subject to review and approval by BPI and BPI Family Bank.
11. In case of dispute, BPI/BPI Family Bank's decision, with the concurrence of DTI, will be final.

150

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

call 89-100, and press "0" to speak to a phonebanker.

SM CINEMA GUIDE

SM Dial-A-Movie • Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR 4173868

1	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVESHOW
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM CENTERPOINT 7140522 • 7161416

1	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
3	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
2	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL
3	DOLBY SURROUND	HOSTAGE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS
11	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
12	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	MS. CONGENIALITY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
3	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
4	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	BILLY ELLIOT
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	HANNIBAL
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
9	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
11	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	ALMOST FAMOUS

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6328401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
4	DTS	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9285452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
2	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	DOLBY SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	DOLBY SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
6	DOLBY SURROUND	PURPLE STORM
7	DTS	MS. CONGENIALITY
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	WEDDING PLANNER
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HOSTAGE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
12	DOLBY SURROUND	HANNIBAL

SM SOUTHMALL 8066688 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	BILLY ELLIOT
2	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	DRACULA 2000
5	ULTRA SURROUND	HOSTAGE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
7	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	WEDDING PLANNER
9	ULTRA SURROUND	TOO MUCH FLESH
10	ULTRA SURROUND	PURPLE STORM

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVESHOW

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH

SM ILOILO 3208422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHAT WOMEN WANT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	HANNIBAL
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
5	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMEN ON TOP
6	ULTRA SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7	ULTRA SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CONTENDER

SM PAMPANGA 7126015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	DRACULA 2000
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ALMOST FAMOUS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LIVE SHOW
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NURSE BETTY
6	DOLBY SURROUND	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Movies are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG... DISKARTE KOTO!
2	WEDDING PLANNER
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	MS. CONGENIALITY

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 4

1	DRACULA 2000	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	WEDDING PLANNER THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	CHUCK & BUCK (Phil. Premiere) Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HANNIBAL	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	MS. CONGENIALITY	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	BILLY ELLIOT	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BILLY ELLIOT	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	WEDDING PLANNER	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	MS. CONGENIALITY	In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARCH 16,17,23,24 GARY V. BY REQUEST 2 Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	WEDDING PLANNER THX	In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	BILLY ELLIOT	In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	MS. CONGENIALITY	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	HANNIBAL	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	OOOPS, TEKA LANG... DISKARTE KOTO!	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
2 (SDDS)	PURPLE STORM
3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4 GOLD (DTS)	HANNIBAL
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
6 GOLD (SDDS)	BILLY ELLIOT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WEDDING PLANNER
8 [illegible]	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
9 [illegible]	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
10 [illegible]	TOO MUCH FLESH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	TOROTOT
3 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	DEMON GATE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	HOSTAGE
3	LIVE SHOW

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	TOROTOT
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PURPLE STORM
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	TOROTOT
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	LIVE SHOW
5	WEDDING PLANNER
6	RESERVE
7	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
8	TOO MUCH FLESH

Uniwide Metromall
(Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

1	
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	HAYOP SA GANDA
4	SPACE COWBOY
5	—
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

1	
2	VIRGIN WIFE
3	SPACE COWBOY
4	WONDER BOY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	VITAL PART

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
A	TOROTOT

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	TUHOG

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	LIVE SHOW
5	PURPLE STORM
6	TOO MUCH FLESH
7 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
8 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
9 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	LIVE SHOW
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4 (SDDS)	WEDDING PLANNER
5	HOSTAGE
6 (DOLBY)	DRACULA
7 (DTS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
8	TOO MUCH FLESH
9	PURPLE STORM

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	WEDDING PLANNER
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	HOSTAGE
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
5 (SDDS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
6	LIVE SHOW
7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
8	TOO MUCH FLESH

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LIVE SHOW
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	WEDDING PLANNER
4	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
5 (SDDS)	TOO MUCH FLESH
6 (DOLBY)	DRACULA 2000
7 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	LIVE SHOW
Lords	TOO MUCH FLESH
Jennet	OOOPS TEKA LANG

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	TOO MUCH FLESH
4	LIVE SHOW

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	DRACULA 2000
3	WEDDING PLANNER
4	LIVE SHOW
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
4	PURPLE STORM
5	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6	LIVE SHOW

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	MS CONGENIALITY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
3 (DOLBY)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	DRACULA 2000

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	TOO MUCH FLESH
3	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
4 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
3 (DTS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
4	LIVE SHOW
5	OBJECT OF OBSESSION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	MS CONGENIALITY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	MS. CONGENIALITY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	LIVE SHOW

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	MS CONGENIALITY
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	DEMON GATE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2	LIVE SHOW
3	RESERVE
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
2 (DTS)	LIVE SHOW

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	BLONDIE
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	LIVE SHOW

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	LIVE SHOW
2	HANNIBAL
3	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
2	RESERVE
3	TOROTOT
4	OOOPS TEKA LANG

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LIVE SHOW
2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
3	HANNIBAL
4 (DTS EX)	ALMOST FAMOUS

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

THX DOLBY dts SDDS

FASHION ANGELS
BEAUTY PAGEANT 2001
E-MAIL US AT
FASHION ANGELS 2001@YAHOO COM.

FOR INQUIRIES
PLS. CALL
734-5012
a special presentation

Brickman comes out with 1st live album

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

STATE-OF-THE-ART CINEMAS
e-mail: btc@netasia-mla.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieword.com

NOW SHOWING
Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ERMITA 536-7809-14

1. WEDDING PLANNER
2. MS. CONGENIALITY
3. OOOPS, TEKA LANG
4. TOO MUCH FLESH
5. HANNIBAL
6. OOOPS, TEKA LANG
7. DRACULA 2000

GALLERIA
UNDER RENOVATION
Robinsons Movieworld aims to bring
a new dimension to your viewing experience
10 brand new cinemas equipped with..
THX, DTS, SDDS, DOLBY DIGITAL soundsystem

IMUS (046)875-3838

1. WEDDING PLANNER
2. LIVE SHOW
3. TOO MUCH FLESH
4. MS. CONGENIALITY
5. OOOPS! TEKA LANG
6. OOOPS, TEKA LANG

BACOLOD (034)441-0453

1. HANNIBAL
2. OBJECT OF OBSESSION
3. DRACULA 2000
4. THE FAMILY MAN
5. KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
6. WAY OF THE GUN

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LIVE SHOW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MS. CONGENIALITY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	DRACULA 2000
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BILLY ELLIOT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	PURPLE STORM
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	TOO MUCH FLESH
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OOOPS, TEKA LANG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
MIRAMAR	KANGKONG/VIVID
ODEON	OOOPS TEKA LANG
ODEON-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
ROBEN	TOROTOT
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	HIGHLANDER / LOST SOUL
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	OOOPS TEKA LANG
QUEZON-1	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
REMAR	OOOPS TEKA LANG
REMAR-2	TOROTOT
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	LIVE SHOW
OCEAN CINEMA-A	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
OCEAN CINEMA-B	BLONDIE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79/633-78-51 10 70
CINEMA-1	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-2	DRACULA 2000
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 10 19)
CINEMA-1	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	LIVE SHOW
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OBJECT OF OBSESSION
CINEMA-6	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-7	BLONDIE
CINEMA-8	TUHOG
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ALMOST FAMOUS
CINEMA-12	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-14	HOSTAGE
CINEMA-15	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
LORES	
CINEMA-2	KAAWAY HANGGANG HUKAY
CINEMA-3	BLONDIE
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BILLY ELLIOT
CINEMA-2	MS. CONGENIALITY
CINEMA-3	WEDDING PLANNER
CINEMA-4	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-5	HANNIBAL
CINEMA-6	WEDDING PLANNER

"MY ROMANCE: An Evening with Jim Brickman" is an intimate, romantic concert experience captured live on CD. This represents Brickman's first live album and features an illustrious line-up of guest performers.

Recorded last year in Salt Lake City's historic Capitol Theater, "My Romance: An Evening with Jim Brickman" brought together Jim's closest friends and musical colleagues to share in the performances of his classic hits and new songs as well.

The album includes instrumentals like "Rocket to the Moon," "Picture, This," "The Freedom" and "Lake Eerie Rainfall."

There are vocal tracks like "The Love of My Life" recorded with Donny Osmond, "Change of Heart" and "Valentine" both rendered by Olivia Newton-John, "By Heart" by Anne Coch-ran and "Glory," performed with fellow keyboardist David Benoit.

In one track, Brickman sings for the first time in his debut single, "The Love I Found in You." The song has been getting good airplay in all top radio stations in the country.

A pianist-composer, Brickman has long been a staple of adult-contemporary, pop, country and smooth jazz radio play lists. In the last five years, he has released multi-platinum selling albums such as "By Heart," "The Gift," "Picture This," "Destiny" and "Ballads," which has reached double-platinum status in the Philippines, with over 100,000 copies sold.

"My Romance" An Evening with Jim Brickman" is now fast-climbing the country's retail charts only after few weeks from release.

"My Romance: An Evening with Jim Brickman" is available on CDs that comes with a free VCD of Brickman's live performances, and on cassettes exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

Visit BMG's website at www.click2music.com ph.

BRICKMAN

LOUIE'S CINEMA

THX It Will Change the Way You Hear and See Movies Forever

NOW SHOWING

THE WEDDING PLANNER
(PG-13 / RT 1:40)
Romantic - Comedy
Jennifer Lopez
Matthew McConaughey

March 19-Monday/20-Tuesday

6:20 PM - Wedding Planner
8:30 PM - Wedding Planner
10:40 PM - Wedding Planner

Watch out for the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CINEMA coming out in March!

LRP Foundation Inc. Louie's THX Cinema Bldg., Mile Long Compound Amorsolo St., Makati City Tel. No. 751-20-10 Fax 892-3449
www.louiesthx.com.ph

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Back to square one

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IN his movie with **Regine Velasquez** directed by **Joyce Bernal, Robin Padilla** was able to get rid of most of his tough action star shticks, and viewers loved his new screen persona. In his latest actioner, "Ooops, Teka Lang, Diskarte Ko 'To," Robin reverts to his old image, and we're back to square one.

Robin must have opted to go stereotypically rough and tough because his new movie has a much higher action quotient than his film with Regine.

But his dated antics and gimmicks are a drag to watch, so he's well advised to give them up for good, if he wants to keep his new fans interested in his forthcoming performances.

The movie itself has its own problems, starting with its plot: Robin is a good cop who's compromised by his own commanding officer, resulting in his being kicked out of the force.

In retaliation, he decides to stop playing it good and noble—until a young novice (**Claudine Barretto**) hires him to rescue her older sister (**Bernadette Allyson**), who has been forced to become the girlfriend of the same young crime lord (**Tonton Gutierrez**) whom Robin has gotten on the bad side of at the start of the movie.

Claudine's characterization of the novice is as questionable as Robin's sullen portrayal. In her case, we can't believe that she's a member of a religious order.

Despite her devout avowals of wanting to serve God, etc., she comes across as a rather worldly person who doesn't seem to mind if guys see her without her veil, and if Robin gives her a peck on the lips midway through the movie.

The excuse here is that the novice is an impulsive young woman who's"refreshingly" honest about her feelings—but, if that's the case, why make her a religious novice at all? Especially when, at the end of the movie, Robin says he's prepared to wait for her to leave the convent, and she makes goo-goo eyes at him to leth im know that he may not have to wait that long!

It's "pa-cute" little touches like these that indicate that the movie is just one big lark for the people involved in it. Another indication of this is the penchant of Claudine and **Vhong Navarro** (Robin's sidekick in the movie) to go "sightseeing" while on their way to Tonton's island-lair. "Sightseeing" in an action film?!?

To its credit, the movie is livened by a number of big action scenes, car chases and explosions—but they can't substantially make up for the film's flaws.

Lucy Liu's lucky charm

IF JACKIE Chan is the biggest male Asian star working in Hollywood, who's his female counterpart? Time was when the answer to that question was **Joan Chen**, but Chen has moved on to directing, so the title is currently up for grabs.

One of the strongest contenders is **Lucy Liu**, thanks to her stellar turn in the hit film, "Charlie's Angels," where she shared top billing with **Drew Barrymore** and **Cameron Diaz**.

Even before that blockbuster movie, Liu has been getting a lot of attention, thanks to her occasional appearances on "Ally McBeal," where she plays the sharp-tongued and litigous **Ling Woo** . . .

Liu's sassy performances on "Ally McBeal" led to her being cast as a tribal dominatrix in the movie "Payback," starring **Mel Gibson**, and in "True Crime" with **Clint Eastwood**, to mention just two of her early big-screen outings.

Despite her movie stardom, Liu continues to appear from time to time on "Ally McBeal," because she considers the show her lucky charm. "Ally McBeal" airs on Star World every Wednesday at 9 p.m., and is replayed every Thursday at 12:30 a.m.

'Everyday magic' for kids and the rest of the family

By Leah Salterio

"IT'S BEEN an exciting, rewarding and really, really good year."

Disney Channel managing director Raymund Miranda is assessing the first year of operation in the Philippines of the favorite kiddie channel.

"The response to the channel has exceeded our expectations," Miranda adds. "We have also exceeded our target by over a hundred percent. We are now among the top 10 overall channels, including free TV."

While it initially aired exclusively on Home Cable, Disney Channel is now viewed in over a hundred cable systems nationwide.

"You don't just sit back because you've got good figures," Miranda says. "We try to be always pro-active and respond to the market right away."

He believes that one of the biggest contributions Disney Channel made to the market is raising the level of marketing efforts of the regional channels. Even competing networks are initiating more promo activities, challenged by the aggressive Disney blitz.

They also monitor competition from other kiddie channels like Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon.

"We make it a point to answer everyone who writes us," Miranda says. "No programmer operates in a vacuum. We never program for ourselves, regardless of what's going on. We also want to know what our audience wants, not just in terms of programs. We also consider their lifestyle and their preferences."

Since Disney Channel launched its 24-hour cable programming early last year, it has been bringing "everyday magic" into Philippine homes, with its lineup of animated movies and series, live action shows and pre-school programming.

Many people still remember the spectacular launch at the PICC early last year, when more than 20 Disney characters came to Manila—including Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Pluto, Ariel, Belle, Pocahontas, Princess Jasmine. It was even aired as a special over the Disney Channel.

Top rater

"The Wonderful World of Disney" is a consistent top-rater. It has aired well-loved animated and live-action movies such as "Madeline," "Mulan," "Pocahontas," "Lost in Paris," "101 Dalmatians," "Aladdin," "Mr. Magoo," "George of the Jungle" and "A Bug's Life," among many others.

Disney Channel also introduced "Scream TV," a terrifying yet fun block of hilarious horror shows like "Are You Afraid of the Dark," "Jumanji" and "Sabrina: The Teenage Witch."

"Art Attack" is a multi-award-winning program that has helped introduce millions of children to art. Hosted by the lively and energetic Neil Buchanan, the show aims to stimulate creativity in children and inspire their imagination with the use of simple-to-follow, step-by-step techniques.

The Junior X Games brought six kiddie viewers to Phuket, Thailand, where the live event took place. Two Filipinos bagged gold medals for sport climbing and bouldering.

The two live hosts of "The Buzz"—Gen and Azurra—have gained fame and recognition for appearing on Disney Channel.

"Even in Hong Kong, where Disney does not air, the two Malaysians get recognized by Filipinos," Miranda says. "This year, a 21-year-old Filipino talent will join the program."

Timeless movies

Late last year, Disney Channel opened its treasure chest of timeless movies shown in "Vault Disney," which airs every Saturday, 11 p.m.

This month, a number of programs will premiere on Disney Channel.

"Belle's Magical World" is an animated production featuring lovable characters from "Beauty and the Beast."

"Doug's First Movie" follows the adventures and misadventures of Doug Finnie, an imaginative and quirky kid.

"The Big Friendly Giant" is based on Roald Dahl's best-selling children's novel about the adventures of Sophie, a nine-year-old orphan and the 25-foot giant.

"Pinocchio" is the classic tale of a puppet brought to life by a fairy and whose nose grows longer whenever he does something bad.

Also upcoming in the Disney Channel are the premiere of various animated and live action movies such as "Tarzan," "Pinocchio," "Lloyd in Space," "The Book of Pooh" and "House of Mouse."

More countries

Playhouse Disney, the Disney Channel's pre-school block will also be highlighted this year. This features well-loved shows like "The New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh," "Bear in the Big Blue House" and "Rollie Pollie Ollie."

Disney Channel Asia is a multi-territory feed that covers several Asean countries. At present, the channel is seen in Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Brunei.

"We also hope to penetrate Thailand, Indonesia and India," Miranda says.

But while most people think Disney Channel is only for kids, it in fact caters to the entire family with its three distinct zones: "Playhouse" for pre-schoolers; "Kid's Zone" for older kids; and "Family Zone."

"Parents are very trusting of the Disney name, so we don't want to destroy that," Miranda says.

MICKEY AND MINNIE, just two of the Disney characters that are always a hit with the kids.

Gladys glad to stay with the Boxers With K

IN A profession where loyalty is easy to say but difficult to practice, the musical comedy group Gladys and the Boxers With K is a refreshing rarity.

No contract legally binds them from pursuing separate paths, but Gladys Guverra, Daniel Larrazabal, Kakai Brosas and Dino Miranda stay together as the group that has become well-known in the live entertainment scene. And they stick together not just because it is professionally convenient, according to Gladys.

"We're together not because of some contractual obligation but because we want to be together," she says. "We enjoy each other's company and we like the audience to enjoy when we perform," she says.

Outside of the popular comedy group, Gladys makes daily appearances as one of the hosts of the noontime show "Eat . . . Bulaga" and a recurring spot in the sitcom "Beh Bote Nga," both on GMA 7. How long before the petite dynamo with the powerful voice and a bawdy humor leaves the two-year-old group?

It was Arnel Ignacio, the entertainer currently running for councilor, who encouraged Gladys, then barely out of her teens, to move to Manila from her hometown of Olongapo City.

Not long after, she began her career in sing-along bars, where she not only sang but, with her outrageous sense of humor, helped calm the nerves of anonymous non-professional singers.

Then she met the second person who would have an impact on her professional life—talent manager and TV host Boy Abunda, who continues to shape and guide her career.

If coming into her own as a celebrity did not happen as quickly as her supporters had expected, Gladys admits she has no one to blame but herself. "I would fall in love and I would think nothing about missing my professional commitments because I preferred to be with whoever was my 'papa' at the time."

Still, Gladys does not regret having gone through those personal lows because they helped her appreciate where she is now—close to big-time celebrity.

"This, my work, is where I am putting all my energy, all my focus," she says. Aside from the two shows on GMA, she has a third, also on the same station: "Mga Biglang Sibol," an early afternoon sitcom where she plays the narrator.

What happens then to the musical comedy group that she helped to make much sought-after in the live entertainment circuit?

"Sure, we have discussed it," she says of the possibility of her leaving the group. "But, you know, and I'm not saying this just because it's convenient, those guys are all so very talented that I will never claim responsibility for the group's success."

SERIOUS about her career this time, funny woman Guevarra says she's not separating from the comedy group.

CHANNELS Band performs at Café Overdrive.

'Crossover Live' presents Channels

CROSSOVER 105.1 and Gentxt from Globe Handyphone present another refreshing evening of fun and music this March at Café Overdrive in Makati as "Crossover Live" features Channels on March 21.

Channels plays a mix of contemporary jazz and retro music, very much like the music you hear everyday on 105.1 Crossover.

The group's rendition of "After the Love Has Gone," "Laughter in the Rain," "Runaway," "Shower the People," plus their medleys of jazz and Eric Clapton tunes are truly special numbers that should not be missed.

Channels at Cafe Overdrive is also presented by Citibank, Cathay Pacific, Visa, Shell Helix, Carnation Calcium Plus, Imarflex, Theragran-M, Café Puro Jade Blend and supported in part by Dry Cough Robitussin, Ericsson Mobile Phones and Jun Saldivar Photography.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

BILLY ELLIOT - P 13 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30	MISS CONGENIALITY - G 12:35, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 11:20, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
PAY IT FORWARD - P 13 10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	HANNIBAL - R 11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00	WEDDING PLANNER - P 13 10:30, 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:00

CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GLORIETTA 4
Art Film
OPENS MARCH 21 (WED.)
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
CHOW YUN-FAT MICHELLE YEOH CHANG CHEN ZHANG ZI YI
A FILM BY ANG LEE
CROUCHING TIGER HIDDEN DRAGON
(Re-issue)
A TIMELESS STORY OF STRENGTH, SECRETS & TWO WARRIORS WHO WOULD NEVER SURRENDER.
with
10 OSCAR Nominations
including
BEST PICTURE
BEST DIRECTOR - Ang Lee
ORIGINAL MANDARIN VERSION w/ English Sub-titles

"A GREAT BLEND OF ACTION & COMEDY!" -JIM FERGUSON, FOX TV
"THIS MOVIE HAS IT ALL- THRILLS, CHILLS, ACTION & LAUGHS!' -STEVE KERVOLINO, LAUNCH
"JAMIE FOXX IS HOT, HIP AND HILARIOUS" -BILL BREGOLL WESTWOOD ONE
JAMIE FOXX
BAIT
www.baitmovie.com
AOL Keyword: Bait www.castle-rock.com

ACTION with a BLAST starts MARCH 21
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ENTERTAINMENT

Louie C. Camino, Editor

On the road with radio

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'VE been spending an unbelievable amount of time on the road, from 9 a.m. all the way to midnight or even 1 a.m. Unfortunately, there's something wrong with the wiring connection of my vehicle's television and since my van doesn't have a disc player, I've been listening to a lot of FM radio.

Here are some of my radio picks based on my infinite road trip last Friday, when I traveled from ABS-CBN to the north, Camiling, Tarlac (which is in Tarlac's first district, about three hours away from Quezon City), and to the south, down Edsa, through the Skyway and Sucat to Camella Homes in Parañaque (that was nearly four hours of travel time).

It was Friday Magic Madness on Magic 89.9. I was feeling nostalgic because of their generous supply of '80s hits. I especially loved hearing **Joey Albert**'s "Million Miles Away" and **Gary Valenciano**'s "Reaching Out." Of course, I was reminded that **Regine Velasquez** wasn't the original singer of "On the Wings of Love" (although her version is my favorite) when I heard the rich tones of a male singer, whom I believe is **Jeffrey Osbourne**, singing it.

They were broadcasting from SM Centerpoint because of the mall's payday weekend Midnight Madness sale. The interaction, although serving a very commercial purpose, added energy to their programs.

Magic also had reliable-sounding traffic updates, and their plugs of campus activities sets the tone for their youth-oriented programming. Their transmission was very clear considering that we were all the way in Tarlac's northern tip.

I decided to move up the dial and give Love Radio 90.7 a try. It was late afternoon, and their playlist was a bit more upbeat than what I was expecting.

Hannah, my make-up artist, said that during rush-hour travel, the station plays mostly dance tunes. By around 8 p.m., they revert to their love songs playlist.

I am a sucker for romantic ballads, and they had all the mushy tunes I listen to, like Atlantic Starr's "Always." **Claire Marlo** was also part of their playlist, as well as a long-ago version of my undying theme song, "Fallin'." They also had an inexhaustible supply of the hits of the boy bands, most notably Boyzone with **Ronan Keating**'s distinct voice.

I've always been a fan of **Joe D'Mango**. As early as in my Ateneo days I was already an avid listener of his "Love Notes." I saw in their full-page ad in the INQUIRER that 89.1 is now the Wave and Joe D' Mango is their headliner. Out of my allegiance to Joe, I went down the dial and also listened to 89.1. Too bad we missed the replay of "Love Notes" which was, according to their radio plug, on at 7 p.m. after its initial mid-morning airing.

They have a good mix of "senti" songs and some jazzy bits. I also chanced upon Joe's "I Wanna Know." That must mean they also have pop and R&B tunes. I noticed that they give the listener pure music, very little deejay interruptions, and, maybe because the station is newly set up, there were very few commercial interruptions.

This is a good radio station to put on at night, when you're in the car with a date. You aren't being too mushy, but you're still showing that you're in touch with your emotions and aren't afraid to explore them.

On my way home, we switched to my *masa* favorites, 101.9 RR and 102.7 Star FM. These are the stations that I tune in to when I want to be aware of what's popular with the biggest segment of our population. These two stations are unpretentions, and consistently entertaining. And they give our OPM artists the most airplay, which I commend.

Radio serves as an excellent jumping board for conversations during long trips because a lot is revealed about the person by his or her choice of songs, and the many experiences and heartaches related to the songs are freely shared.

Sometimes that which isn't visual reveals the most heartfelt story.

TOP BANDS IN FREEGO CONCERT

Freego, the country's leading jeans brand, ushers in a revolutionary breakthrough in denims with a free gig, "Jeantics Concert," March 24, 7 p.m. at the Folk Arts Theater. Freestyle (in photo) headlines the concert, with Parokya ni Edgar and the special participation of Paco Arespacochaga and the Skin Band. The event is being presented in cooperation with Cotton USA. The ongoing concert promo is in conjunction with the launch of a new concept in fashion called Freego Jeanetics. Every purchase of a regular pair of Freego men's or ladies' jeans entitles the customers to a free ticket to the concert. Radio jocks from 97.1 dwLS, 89.9 dwTM, RX 93.1 and 93.1 dwKC will also give away shirts from 6 a.m. to 12 noon via a live phone-in promo.

Playshop, not workshop, for children

By Butch G. Jimenez

IN the war for children's time, parents have lost to TV, Play Station, the Internet, and texting. Unfortunately, all these activities aren't really activities. They make children sluggish, inactive, and stare at some kind of screen the whole day.

That's why we in Trumpets set up Playshop, the biggest performing arts workshop for the young generation.

I remember developing the business strategy for Playshop almost seven years ago with Audie Gemora and Freddie Santos. We wanted to provide children with a summer workshop that was fun, so we called it a *play*shop and not a *work*shop.

We also wanted to give children the best possible training and their parents the comforting thought that their children would be in good hands. We therefore fused excellent instruction with Christian values.

And while other performing arts schools just focused on one subject, we made ours different.

Highest enrollment

Today, Playshop has the highest enrollment of any theater workshop, with more than 2,000 students, and we hold classes in various venues and provinces. Soon, Playshop goes international with classes in Hong Kong and possibly in Singapore.

Statistics show that summer is the season when the highest rate of juvenile delinquency occurs. They say "the devil's playground is an idle mind." No wonder. Summer is when most children are prone to meeting the wrong crowd, trying new things, engaging in new tricks, and passing through adolescent rites of passage.

Unfortunately, TV, the 'net, and video games reinforce this attitude. To top it all off, children turn into couch potatoes.

Strong values

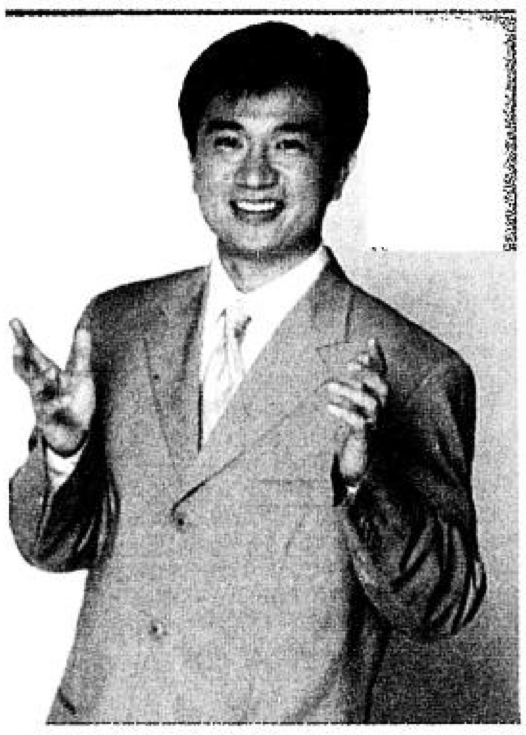
So if you're a parent, your goal this summer should be to peel your kids away from that box and into an activity they can learn from, interact, have fun, and hopefully develop strong values. Like Playshop.

We have classes in children's and advanced musical theater, basic and advanced acting, voice lessons, classical guitar and piano, as well as street dancing, jazz, ballet, and hip-hop.

Playshop also offers TV newscasting, modelling, photography, stage management, TV production and set design.

Playshop's roster of teachers includes theater stars Audie Gemora, Jaime del Mundo and Menchu Lauchengco, Metropop Star champion Jonard Yanson, Jonjon Supan of the Manouevres, ace photographer Toch Arellano, model Tweety de Leon, singer Sweet Plantado of The Company, and many more.

There's a war this summer. A war for your child's time. Wanna join the Playshop army? Call 636-2842.



JIMENEZ

Catch the
LAST FEW
WEEKS' RUN
OF
Miss Saigon
THE ORIGINAL
BROADWAY MUSICAL
VERY SPECIAL
OFFER FOR
Orchestra Section
Seats
Feb 27 to Mar 25
performances
Balcony 1 & 2
seats are also
available.
For inquiries, call
813 6022, 817 1350
813 6024, 894 0452
0918-9002168
0917-4239065
0917-8113284
0917-6136909
0917-8928184

FacialPlus
FACIAL AND BLEACHING CENTER
· DASMARINAS
2nd Flr. Palmas Bldg
#82 Campos Ave., Dasmarinas, Cavite
(046)973-3771 · 416-1234
· DAVAO
ERB FACIAL LINE
Door 2B, Don Alejandro Bldg
Bajada, Davao City
222-3026 · 224-0360
· CALOOCAN
New Grace Bldg., 200 New Grace
Park St., 10th Ave., Caloocan City
323-2660 to 62
FACIAL
BLEACHING
P200
FACIAL
P200
Clinic Hours:
10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
WE'RE OPEN FROM
MONDAYS TO SUNDAYS

"Now, I want everything to last."

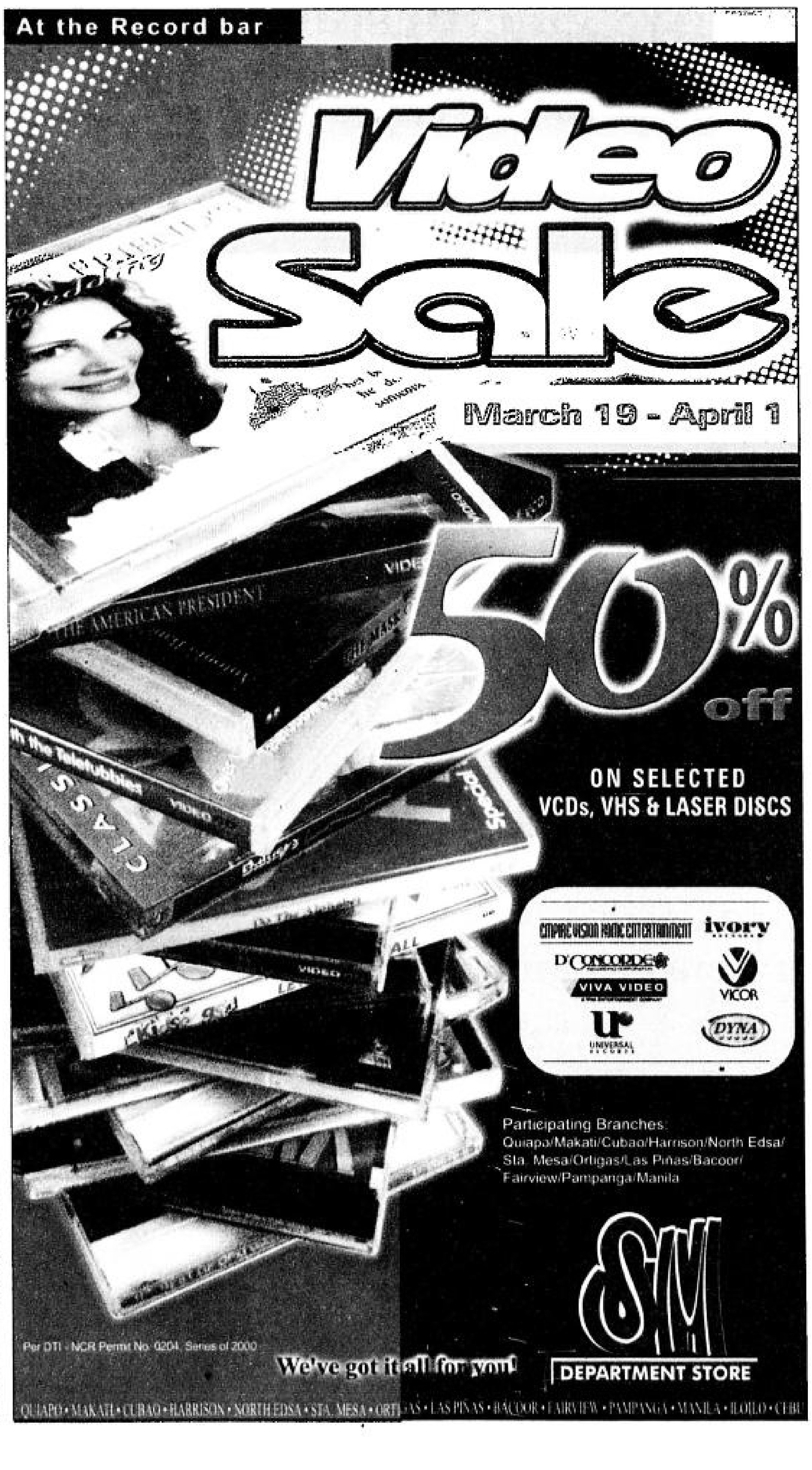
The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

Eurotiles, the tough ceramic tiles, last for a very long time. With over 400 beautiful designs to suit every home, each tile is made using superior European technology for durability and strength.

"Good as forever." Take it from Kris.

EUROTILES
SUPERIOR CERAMIC TILES
Styled to last.

Eurotiles Industrial Corporation Diplomat Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City Tel. 551-1077 Fax 832-3079



At the Record bar
Video Sale
March 19 - April 1
50% off
ON SELECTED
VCDs, VHS & LASER DISCS
Participating Branches:
Quiapo/Makati/Cubao/Harrison/North Edsa/
Sta. Mesa/Ortigas/Las Piñas/Bacoor/
Fairview/Pampanga/Manila
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0204, Series of 2000
We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • PAMPANGA • MANILA • ILOILO • CEBU

Acer
we hear you
INQUIRE HERE
Acer Website www.acer.com.ph
Acer Hotline 302-7777 / 302-7888

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER B1

BUSINESS

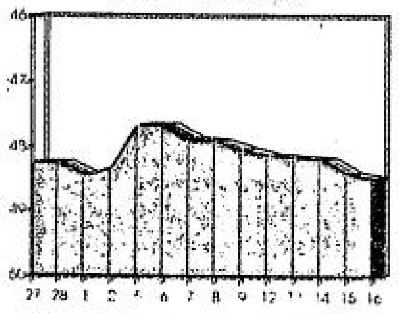
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

COMPAQ
Armada 100s
Full specs & details at
www.ics.com.ph
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
Tel. 727-3801

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

P 48.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
March 16, 2001

¥ 122.56 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.56 as of 5 p.m., March 16, 2001

GOLD:$260.00/260.50
per ounce Hong Kong, March 16, 2001

STOCK MARKET

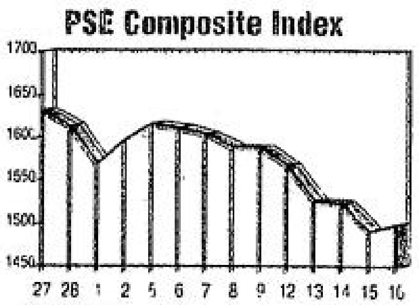
Stocks up

SHARES closed higher last Friday for the first time in almost two weeks as some local investors took advantage of bargain stocks.

But the market's gains were not too convincing as it was accompanied by meager volume, indicating that cautiousness among

STOCKS/ B6

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

RAISING P100B

Gov't plans 7-yr. bond float to finance deficit

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is planning to issue seven-year bonds backed by its future earnings from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and Clark Development Corp. to raise between P60 billion and P100 billion.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the "securitization" of the government's future earnings from these state-owned companies was one of the measures being considered to boost the national coffers and contain this year's budget deficit to P145 billion or lower.

Romulo said the Department of Finance would soon seek the opinion of the Department of Justice on the legality of the plan.

"We can issue bonds that could be traded in both the foreign and local markets and we hope to do it this year," said Romulo.

The finance chief admitted that the idea of securitizing government earnings from Pagcor operations was first brought up during the term of former President Estrada. But a crisis of confidence in the previous government pushed back the plan.

Under the proposed scheme, the government will issue debt instruments such as bonds with its future earnings from these companies to serve as collateral. In effect, the government will collect revenues in advance but in exchange, it will have to pay bondholders interests.

In Pagcor alone, Romulo said the government could securitize about P56 billion. He computed this based on the gaming company's average annual earnings of P8 billion multiplied to seven years.

ROMULO

"We are doing this to bridge the gap. We want to contain the deficit to convince investors that we are serious in implementing fiscal discipline," Romulo said.

The budget deficit in the first two months of the year reached P16 billion, higher than the P9 billion in the same period last year under the Estrada administration.

Romulo said the budget gap this year could worsen to P225 billion because of the obligations inherited from the Estrada administration.

He noted, however, that the Macapagal economic team wanted to bring down deficit to P130 billion to P145 billion for the entire year.

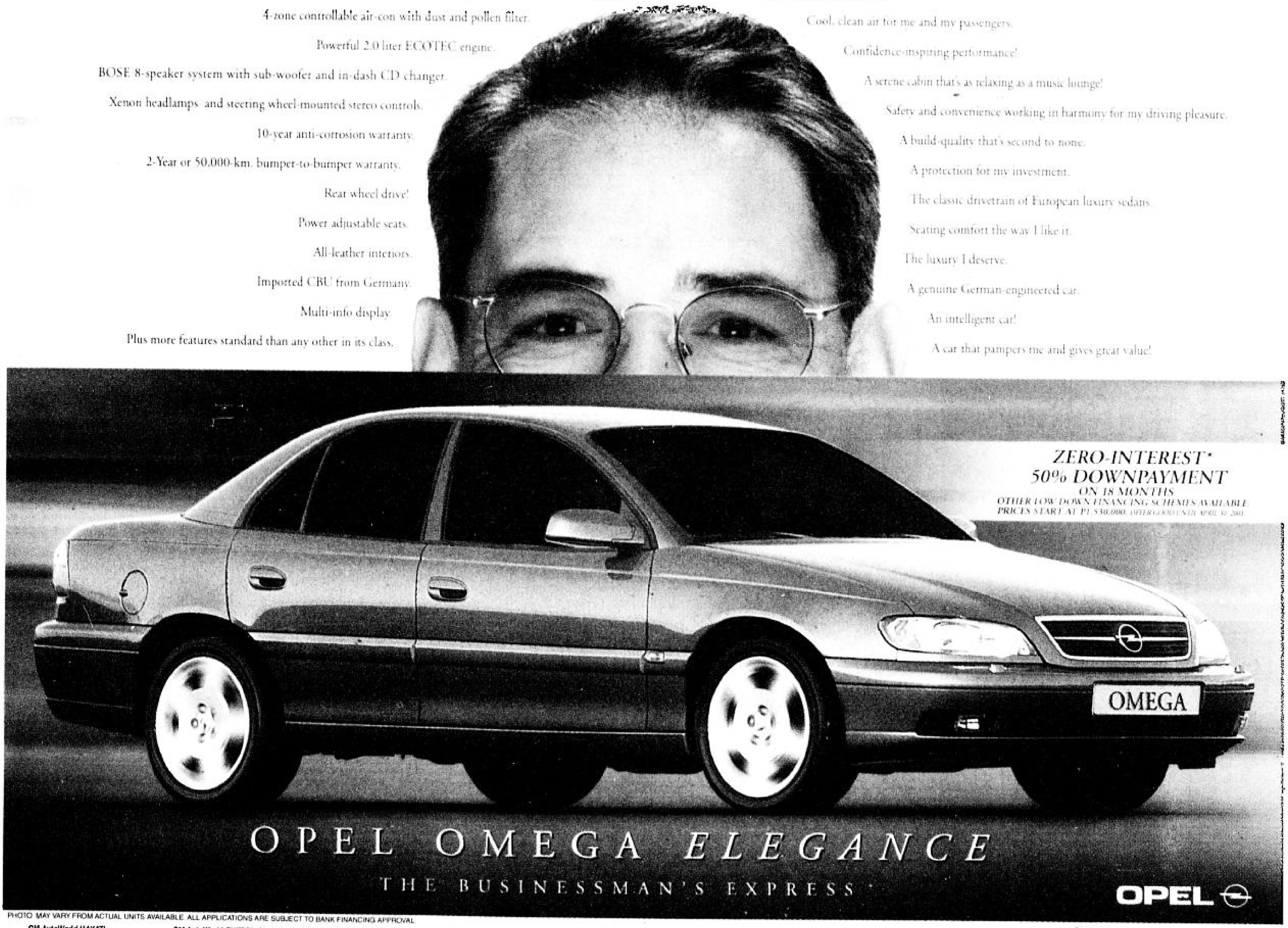
Last year, the budget gap swelled to P136.1 billion, more than double the target of P62.5 billion.

Finally, a car that's built for your left brain and your right brain.

The left brain is rational and logical while the right brain is emotional, relational, intuitive. Whichever side of the brain you use to decide, you'll come to the conclusion that your needs and wants come together in the Opel Omega. Spec for spec, it has more standard features than any other car in its class.

4 airbags, ABS, rigid steel cage and solid chassis, seatbelt pretensioner and anti-whiplash.
4-zone controllable air-con with dust and pollen filter.
Powerful 2.0 liter ECOTEC engine.
BOSE 8-speaker system with sub-woofer and in-dash CD changer.
Xenon headlamps and steering wheel-mounted stereo controls.
10-year anti-corrosion warranty.
2-Year or 50,000-km. bumper-to-bumper warranty.
Rear wheel drive!
Power adjustable seats.
All-leather interiors.
Imported CBU from Germany.
Multi-info display.
Plus more features standard than any other in its class.

A safe place for my family.
Cool, clean air for me and my passengers.
Confidence-inspiring performance!
A serene cabin that's as relaxing as a music lounge!
Safety and convenience working in harmony for my driving pleasure.
A build-quality that's second to none.
A protection for my investment.
The classic drivetrain of European luxury sedans.
Seating comfort the way I like it.
The luxury I deserve.
A genuine German-engineered car.
An intelligent car!
A car that pampers me and gives great value!



ZERO-INTEREST*
50% DOWNPAYMENT
ON 18 MONTHS
OTHER LOW DOWN FINANCING SCHEMES AVAILABLE
PRICES START AT P1,530,000. OFFER GOOD UNTIL APRIL 30, 2001

OPEL OMEGA *ELEGANCE*
THE BUSINESSMAN'S EXPRESS

OPEL

PHOTO MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL UNITS AVAILABLE. ALL APPLICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO BANK FINANCING APPROVAL.

GM AutoWorld MAKATI
2307 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 843-0217 to 20 / 843-0229
814-0803 / 814-0838

GM AutoWorld QUEZON AVENUE
1231 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 374-1250 to 59 / 372-8001
Fax No.: 372-8008

GM AutoWorld PAMPANGA
San Fernando – Gapan Rd., Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. No.: (45) 963-0688
Fax No.: (45) 963-1333

GM AutoWorld CEBU
Governor Cuenco Avenue, Banilad Road, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (32) 234-0426
Fax No.: (32) 231-7760

GM AutoWorld showrooms are open 7 days a week.

GM AutoWorld

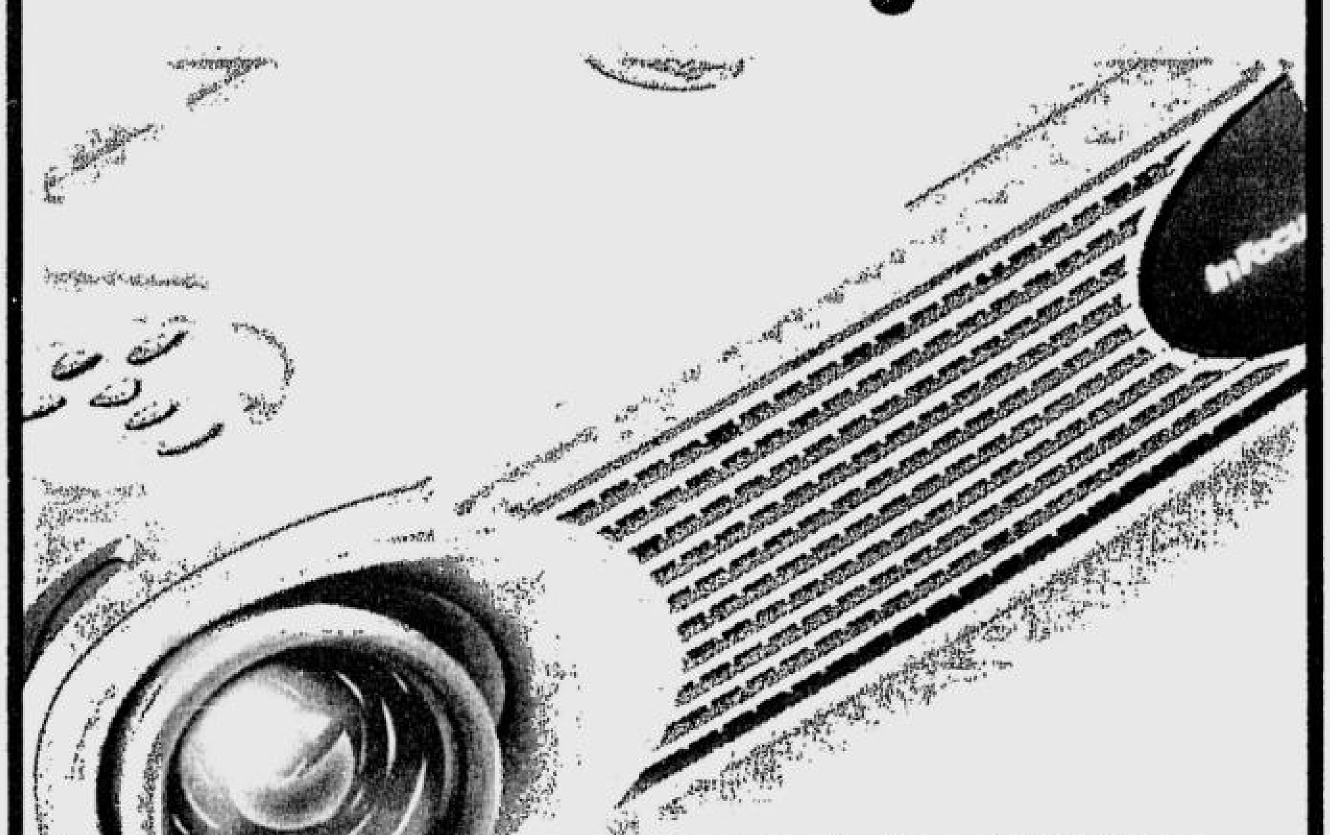
Per DTI-NCR Permit #0732 Series of 2001

The **Maybank** Premier Account
Checking account convenience for as high as 8% interest p.a.!
Free insurance of up to P500,000!
MEGALINK
Member PDIC. Deposits insured up to P100,000

Maybank
Best Domestic Bank in Malaysia
Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2000.

Visit any of Maybank's over 50 branches nationwide or call 521-7451.

Big Things Come In Small Packages



Introducing, the *InFocus® LP 300 Series.*
So sleek, so light . . . perfect for road warriors.
Who says you can't take it with you?

	LP 335	LP 340	LP 350
Lumens	1000 ANSI	1300 ANSI	1300 ANSI
Resolution	XGA (1024 x 768)	SVGA (800 x 600)	XGA (1024 x 768)
Weight	4 8 lbs (2 16kg)	6 7 lbs (3kg)	6 7 lbs (3kg)

For a free demo of these models, call ***723-0601*** *or visit us @ www infocus com*

InFocus®
The No 1 Projector Company In The World

Exclusive Distributor & Service Provider
better solutions
AmericanTechnologies, Inc.
url: www ati com ph • e-mail inquire@ati com ph

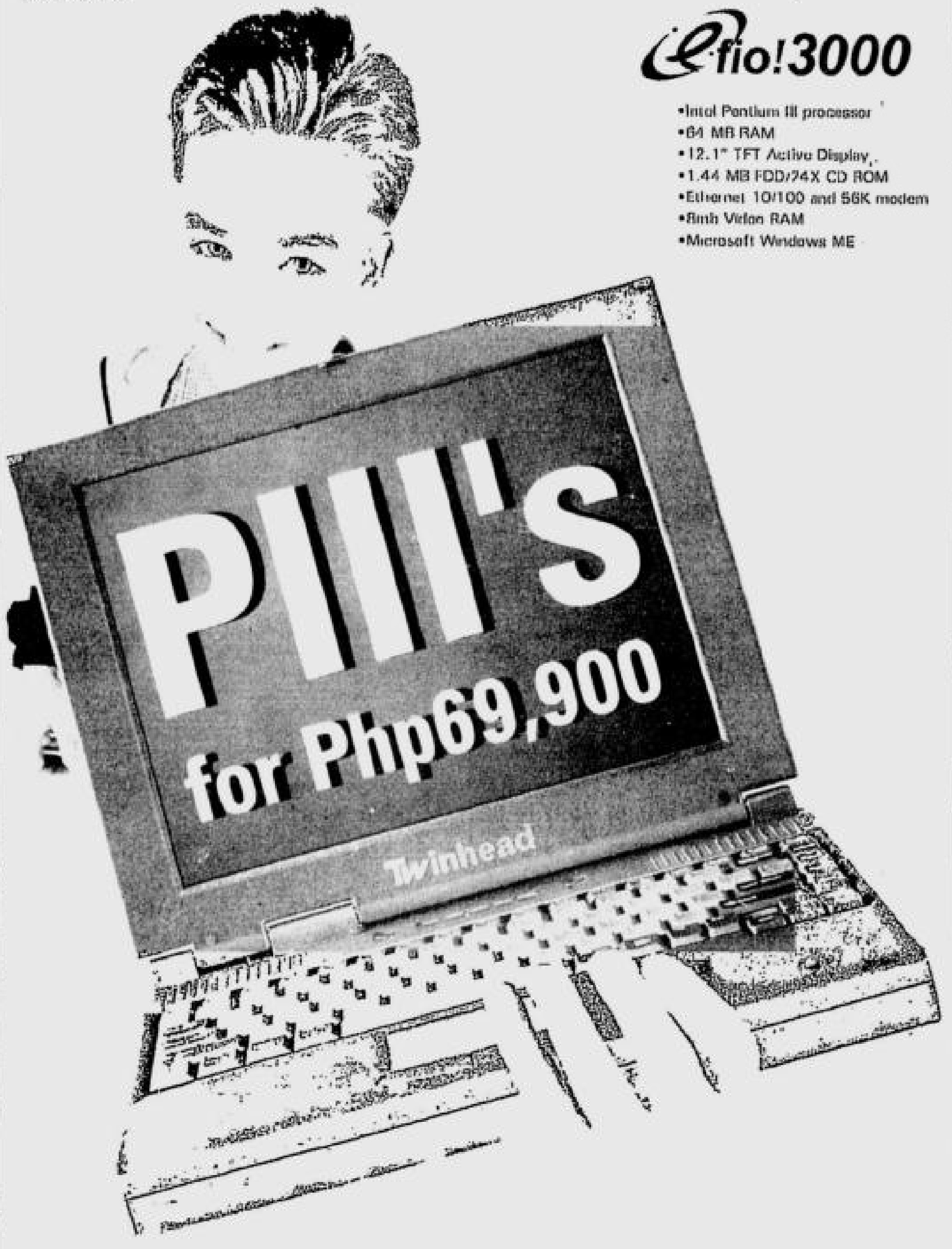
We also offer data/video design and system integration

intel inside pentium III

Twinhead
The Notebook Specialist

Efio!3000

- Intel Pentium III processor
- 64 MB RAM
- 12.1" TFT Active Display
- 1.44 MB FDD/24X CD ROM
- Ethernet 10/100 and 56K modem
- 8mb Video RAM
- Microsoft Windows ME



Pentium III 500 6 GB HDD	Pentium III 600 10 GB HDD	Pentium III 700 6 GB HDD	Pentium III 850 10 GB HDD
Php69,900	Php74,900	Php79,950	Php84,900

STANDARD
MARKING SYSTEMS

NEED TO KNOW MORE? ☎637-1724

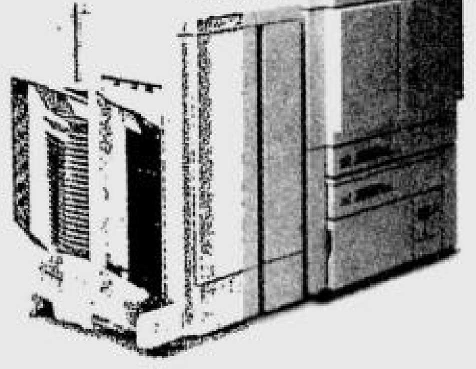
Meet the copiers that go beyond our expectations

"Aside from making copies that are even better than the original, my Canon copier allows me to recreate dozens of other digitally-enhanced images. Having the CLC900 networked as a printer is simply indispensable."

Mr. Jimmy Yu
President
Jewels & Gems Business Center

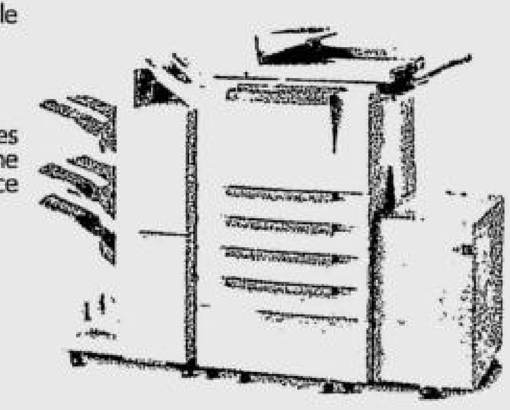
"Canon's GP405 copier is perfect for our big-volume printing requirements. Documents are sorted out automatically, so it saves us a lot of space, time and manpower. It's a very reliable unit. That's why for me, Canon is the best!"

Ms. Judy Paronda
Vice President
Print Finder, Inc.



Canon CLC900
The choice for producing presentation materials with a little more punch

- Diverse collection of color-editing tools
- Generates 7 full-color A4 pages a minute and 28 in monochrome
- Optional PS controller interface for network printing
- Advanced hardware options available for image copying and editing



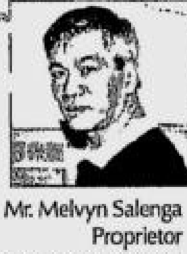
Canon GP405
The best for heavy copying workloads

- 40 copies per minute
- Preset ratio buttons for easy resizing
- Optional 10-bin Stapler Sorter
- OPC drum and toner development system for lowest copying cost
- Maximum of 5550 sheets with automatic tray switching feature with the optional Cassette Feeding Module

Canon NP6130
The copier that can keep up with your hectic pace

- 30 A4 copies per minute
- 50% to 200% zoom ratio
- Front-loading cassettes
- 1,500-sheet paper supply
- User-friendly control panel
- First copy in 7 seconds
- Energy-saving standby mode

"We depend on Canon CP660's innovative color output technology to handle all the printing and copying requirements of our clients. This flexible network printer-copier is a perfect balance of advanced features and ease of use."



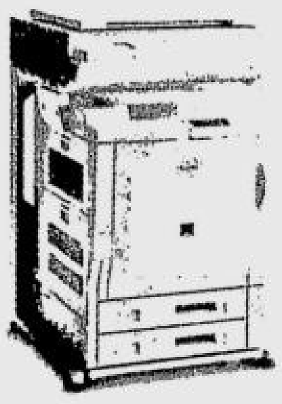
Mr. Melvyn Salenga
Proprietor
Supermouse Business Center

Gerardo Cabochan, Jr.
Managing Director, Pandayan Bookshop
President, Philippine Society for Quality

"Canon offers exceptional after-sales service. Its Canon Warranty Plus gives us fast repairs and unparalleled maintenance service so we get virtually zero downtime! Because of this, our NP6130 copier is consistent in providing services to our customers. As head of an association that advocates product quality to increase productivity, I believe this kind of service is very important."

Canon CP660
Perfect for business documents and eye-catching reports and presentations

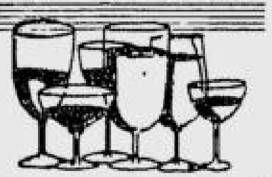
- 7-bin sorter option
- NetSpot software for information on copier status and device features
- Compatible with Windows 95/98/NT4.0 and Macintosh platforms
- Continuous tone 256-level, 600dpi output capable
- Networked unit gives full support to PCL5C emulation and Adobe PostScript 3



Corporate Offices:
MAIN OFFICE: CANON MARKETING (PHILIPPINES), INC., Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Pasong Tamo, Makati City Tel. No. 812-6047/ 812-6076 to 79, Fax No. 812-0067 **WAREHOUSE & SERVICE CENTER,** Unit 1-A Sunblest Compound Km. 23 West Service Road Cupang, Muntinlupa City Tel. No. (632) 772-5351 to 52/(632) 772-5354 to 62 Fax No. (632) 7725142 • **BATAAN BRANCH,** Dilig Building, M. Banzon St., Balanga Bataan Tel. No (047) 237-2151/ (047) 237-5733 • **LA UNION BRANCH,** AJM Building, Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando, La Union Telefax (072) 242-0440/ (072) 242-4587 • **CEBU BRANCH,** Free Star Arcade, Hernan Cortes St., Subangdaku, Mandaue City, Cebu Tel. No. (032) 345-3680/(032) 345-3821 • **LEGASPI BRANCH,** G/F CEA Building Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tel. No. (052) 480-6331/ (052) 214-3863 • **DAVAO BRANCH,** Navigators Building, Gempesaw St., Davao City Tel. No. (082) 222-3392/ (082)227-4820 **Website address:** http://www.canon.com.ph • **E-mail address:**cmp_sales@canon.com.ph

Canon
Gets the job done on time, all the time

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

Target: MVP

INSTEAD of getting a medal for corporate captaincy for the industry-setting P130,000 per employee signing bonus PLDT gave its union last week, Manuel V. Pangilinan is ironically getting knifed at these days.

In addition to the 10th plunder case filed against deposed President Estrada with MVP as co-defendant, an earlier similar complaint has been filed against the PLDT president also before the Ombudsman.

Citing two Pinoy Times articles as evidence, a certain Benedicto V. Yujuico of 90 10th St. and Victoria Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City, claimed that MVP's P20 million reported deposit in the Jose Velarde account was a "bribe, kickback or commission" given to Estrada "(in) consideration of the purchase of the government equity in PLDT."

Represented by the law firm of society lawyer Tunting Cruz Matters, Yujuico also asked the Ombudsman to issue a hold-departure order against MVP, besides asking for the nullification of the PLDT sale.

According to the pro-MVP grapevine, ex-PLDT chairman Alfonso Yuchengco is "behind" the twin Ombudsman complaints and a parallel anti-MVP media lobby now being waged among key columnists.

Yuchengco, according to a former PLDT executive identified with PLDT chairman Antonio Cojuangco Jr., had been "pressured" by Estrada into agreeing to waive the family's right of first refusal that paved the way for the November 1998 takeover of PLDT by the Pangilinan group.

Since then, Yuchengco's Grepalife and PLDT partner, lawyer Antonio Meer, had been plotting on how to nullify the sale in the event that Estrada is no longer in power, according to the same executive.

According to this theory, the anti-MVP moves that have now been surfacing would lay the predicate for the eventual rescission of the Yuchengco sale to the Pangilinan group on grounds of "mistake, fraud, intimidation and undue influence."

COCKTALES/B4

Tau Alpha Fraternity

Founded 1932
College of Engineering
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tau Alpha Fraternity will be holding its 70th Anniversary celebration in **August 2002**. In preparation for these activities, we shall be publishing a complete Tau Alpha Worldwide Directory by June 2001.

We are urging all Brods to send in their name, home and office address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address so we can contact you and send all materials related to this anniversary.

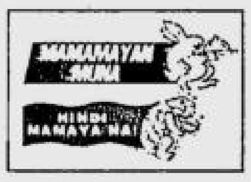
Please contact or send your Directory information to:

Brod Pepot Viado TA 1952
Brod Ray Botardo TA 1983
ASIA BUSINESS CONSULTANTS
3rd Floor Concorde Condominium
200 Benavidez Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City
Tels. 810-0038/40
Fax No. 816-4137
E-mail: jviado@pacific.net.ph
ray_b@skyinet.net

Dasen Dasen Freezing Equipment Corporation
Unit 6 Johnbee Building, Brgy. Almanza Uno, Manila Doctor's Village, Las Piñas City
Tel. no.: 800-7310 • 800-1851 • 800-1850 Fax no.: 806-0024
WHEN IT COMES TO COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION COUNT ON "DASEN" BRAND

3 DOOR SHOW CASE
WALK-IN SHOWCASE
WORK TABLE
ISLAND SHOW CASE FOR COLD CUTS
STAINLESS STEEL FRIDGE
OPEN DISPLAY
WALK-IN COLD ROOM
CONFECTIONARY SHOW CASE
ICE MAKER

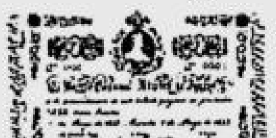
MADE IN TAIWAN!!! WHOLESALER/RETAILER/MANUFACTURER


HINDI MANAYA-NA!

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer in commemoration of the 150th year of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?



...that the first bank in the Philippines, *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2*, was established on August 1, 1851 like the present-day corporation?

...that the bank was quasi-public in nature and had an authorized capital of P400,000, consisting of 2,000 shares of stock (with each share valued at 200 *pesos fuertes*)?

...that among the first directors of the bank was a representative of the business community who was designated by the Spanish government?

..that the bank director representing private business was Antonio de Ayala of the business group called Ayala y Cia?

..that Ayala y Cia, established in 1834, was the forerunner of the present-day Ayala Corporation, the oldest existing business house in the Philippines?

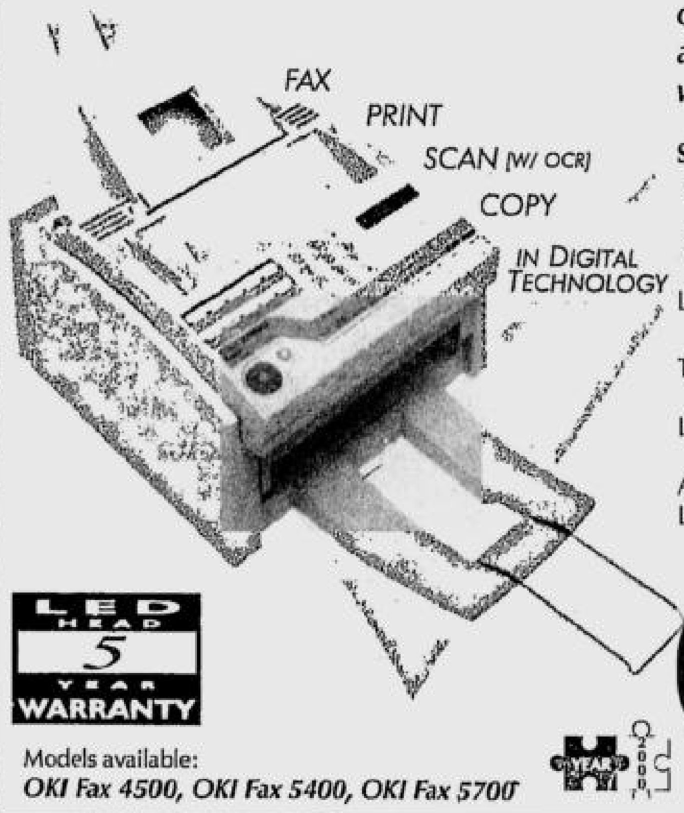
TRUSTED WORLDWIDE FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE. AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY.
A.O. SMITH
Commercial Water Heaters

94% EXTRA EFFICIENCY
CYCLONE
XHE LPG
DURA POWER
ELECTRIC
BURKAY
HOT WATER GENERATOR 82%

FOR SIZING INFO PLEASE CALL
Authorized Distributor
amici AMICI MERCANTILE INC.
86 MAYON ST., QUEZON CITY
TELS. NO. 740-6675 • 740-6676. FAX NO.:740-6677

OKI LED Plain Paper Fax:
The Breakthrough in Digital faxing & printing

The only facsimile you should consider to purchase or to replace your old ones with.



OKI, the world's innovating force in communications, unleashed the LED engine and again totally revolutionized how the world will communicate.

State-of-the-art LED digital quality at affordable cost
Delivers a legion of benefits over laser, including **better, sharper** and **surer quality output**
Fast printing speed from 8 to 10 pages/minute regardless of content
Lowest copy cost and minimal maintenance

The incredible LED printing engine (Light Emitting Diodes)
LED solid-system has no moving parts giving improved reliability and durability
Astonishing 5-year warranty LED engine head
Lean LED system makes fax machines more compact and efficient

LED HEAD 5 YEAR WARRANTY
Models available:
OKI Fax 4500, OKI Fax 5400, OKI Fax 5700

OKI
People to People Technology

Exclusively Distributed by:
LWI LINK WORTH INTERNATIONAL INC.
G/F Valero Plaza, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. Nos.: 8432070 • 817-8223 • 8164303 • 8135636 • 8126870

INSTANT CASH
BORROW AGAINST YOUR GOLF SHARE
UP TO 70% OF THE VALUE
For further details pls. call:
898-4743/44
899-9811
899-9595 LOC:378/375/376/377
DAVAO-082-2240043
Y-L Finance Corporation

Proceeds w/in 24hrs.
NEED CASH?
PAWN YOUR
Thru Y-L Finance Corporation
896-4743/44 899-9811
GOLDPARK 638-7448/638-1462
JUPITER 895-1198
899-9595 LOC:378/375/376/377
DAVAO-082-2240043
3/F Yupangco Bldg., 339 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

OUT NOW!

The best things in life are free...

ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION : Some Hard Facts
Healthy Options
How Foods Fight Cancer
Peel Away Wrinkles
The Herb-Drug Mix
How We Age

Read well.

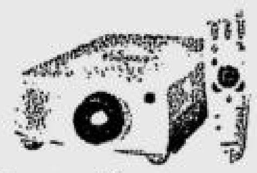
At *Healthy Options*, we believe a natural products store has a responsibility to provide more than just healthy and natural products; it should also provide the knowledge people need to use these products to benefit their own health. Get your free copy now at any *Healthy Options* store

SANYO
GO EVERYWHERE.
PRESENT ANYWHERE.

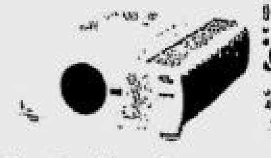
with SANYO's Multimedia LCD Projectors, you have the power to create professional mobile presentations

- as light as 2.5 kg
- true multi-source projectors
- keystone corrections
- one-touch auto -imaging
- wireless and wired remote control with mouse function and/or laser pointer
- digital zoom and focus
- on-screen graphical user interface
- SXGA compressed projection w/ DRIT
- DVD & HDTV projection w/ components inp

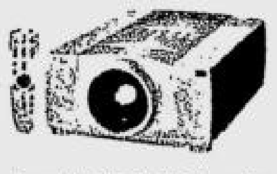
Available Models:



Micro Portable projectors
- PLC XW10, PLC SW10
- as light as 2.5 kg
- with XGA & SVGA real projection



Ultra Portable projectors
- PLC XU22 and SU20 series
- feather-light at 3.9 kg
- high brightness at 1,200 ANSI lumens



Portable SVGA & XGA projectors
- PLC SP20, PLC XP30, PLC XP2 & XP18 series
- mobile projectors w/ fixed projector brightness and picture quality levels
- 1,500 to 3,000 ANSI lumens

Superbright UXGA, SXGA & XGA projectors
- PLC XF10 & PLC EF10 series
- ideal for large-screen presentations
- 3,000 - 3,700 ANSI lumens

Ultrabright XGA projectors
- PLC XF20
- 5,000 ANSI lumens
- ideal for large-screen presentations

NEW authorized Philippine distributor:
ImaTech Corporation
AN AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANY
HEAD OFFICE: 5th Floor Peaksun Bldg., 1505 Princeton St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: (632) 7262243 • Fax No.: (632) 7262330 • E-mail: imatech@info.com.ph
CEBU BRANCH: Door 1, Yap Apartment, La Guardia Apas, Lahug, Cebu City, 6000
Tel. No.: (032) 231-2195, 232-6134 • Fax No.: (032) 231-2195 • E-mail: imacebu@qsilink.com
AV Design, Sales, System Integration, Rental

Group plans to build $2-B oil refinery in Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—A group of businessmen from Islamic countries is willing to invest $2 billion in an oil refinery project in Southern Philippines, ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, recently appointed special envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, said.

Misuari said the project in Mindanao "is the fruit" of his investment mission to help uplift the condition of the 2.8 million residents of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"I've been doing (the) rounds with our Muslim brothers, convincing them to invest in Mindanao because our government has been having budgetary problems of its own. That's why most of my time is spent abroad," he said

Misuari is also chair of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development and concurrent chair of the Moro National Liberation Front.

He said Indonesia and other Islamic countries have agreed to infuse up to $2 billion for the establishment of the first oil refinery plant in Mindanao.

Misuari said the plan was temporarily shelved following the unstable peace and order on the island as a result of the previous administration's "all-out war" against Moro rebels and the rise of kidnap-for-ransom cases.

The probable site of the project would either be Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao or Lanao del Sur, "depending on the investors' choice but which should be a coastal area," Misuari said.

He said in due time he would identify these investors and their firms.

Misuari is scheduled to leave for Japan to attend a conference with Southeast Asian businessmen.

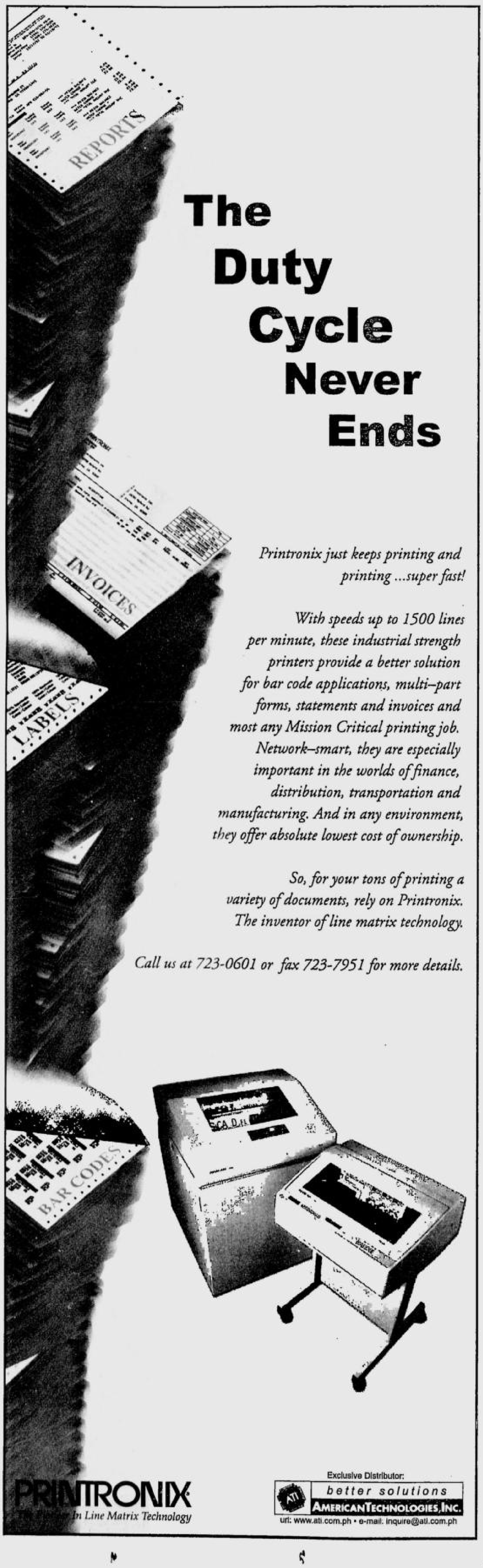
He thanked President Macapagal-Arroyo for designating him special envoy to the OIC, adding, "it was long overdue."

In accepting the post, Misuari said it was the result of his consultation with the MILF and Bangsamoro leaders "with the understanding that it is fully in line with the letter and spirit of the GRP-OIC-MNLF peace agreements."

Misuari was referring to the OIC-brokered 1996 Final Peace Agreement and the 1976 Tripoli Agreement between government and the MNLF.

"With this official designation I can now accelerate Mindanao's investment missions abroad with confidence of obtaining not only pledges of support but concrete actions from foreigners who want to do business with us," Misuari said.

He also called on MNLF members to continue supporting the national government's peace efforts, particularly its ongoing peace negotiation with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. The MILF broke away from the MNLF in the late 1970s. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


The Duty Cycle Never Ends

Printronix just keeps printing and printing ...super fast!

With speeds up to 1500 lines per minute, these industrial strength printers provide a better solution for bar code applications, multi–part forms, statements and invoices and most any Mission Critical printing job. Network–smart, they are especially important in the worlds of finance, distribution, transportation and manufacturing. And in any environment, they offer absolute lowest cost of ownership.

So, for your tons of printing a variety of documents, rely on Printronix. The inventor of line matrix technology.

Call us at 723-0601 or fax 723-7951 for more details.

PRINTRONIX
In Line Matrix Technology

Exclusive Distributor:
better solutions
AMERICAN TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
url: www.ati.com.ph • e-mail: inquire@ati.com.ph

Lola power

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE TOWNSPEOPLE—*ang taong bayan*—whose quality of life every candidate swears to improve are not one nameless mass. Rather, they are a maddening medley of people: the youth, the women, the working man, the fisherfolk, and the farmers, and so on, and so forth. They comprise the electorate.

To court the votes of the electorate, candidates will sing and dance, promise the moon and stars. They unfold so called pro-poor programs to put up low-cost housing, lay roads and bridges, open jobs.

In each section of the electorate, there is the local political leader. These are the union boss, the association president, the secretary general or the national coordinator, or a mere convenor of a non-governmental organization, now also referred to as the civil society. (By the way, when these do-gooders call themselves the civil society, does that make the rest of us uncivil?)

Every politician will tell you that the most powerful local leader is the barangay chairman. In the US, he is the ward leader. He is the one whom everybody in the neighborhood owe favors to. It is at the barangay level where a politician's fortune is decided.

But the politicians are wrong. In the Philippines, there is one political leader even more powerful than the barangay chairman. I refer to the matriarch of the family—the grandmother, the Lola. Not a card-carrying member of any party, and no great shakes in delivering public speeches, she nonetheless holds her constituency, small as it may be, in a tight grip.

At the usual weekend family gathering before the May 14 elections, she will announce her choices at the local and national levels. Everybody nods in total agreement—and takes a second helping of Lola's favorite *kare-kare*. How can any politician beat that kind of a doleout?

And where is the grandfather, the Lolo? He just sits back, grinning and enjoying the scene also in total agreement—if he knows what's good for him.

Some sociologist should make a comprehensive study of the influence of the Lola in Philippine society. I remember, in a management class I took a long time ago, the professor told us the story of the matriarch of a large store chain who had never gone to college. While driving around the countryside one day, she noticed a large empty space. She told the young grandson beside her to make arrangements to buy a piece alongside the highway. The grandson, who had a master's degree in business, wanted to suggest that a project feasibility study should first be made. The Lola noticed the quizzical look on his grandson's face and told him to trust her instincts.

The lot was bought. In due time, the news of the purchase leaked out and the price of the surrounding real estate instantly rose. The area eventually developed into an important commercial district.

Before the 1986 revolution, when Corazon Aquino called for a total boycott of San Miguel products, one Lola I know imposed the boycott even on her pre-school grandchildren. If the boycott went on for months, Lola might have had to quell a rebellion in her family.

Just last week, after I explained to a widowed Lola the workings of the party-list system, then told her about the party-list candidacy of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP), and that PARP is the only party-list candidate representing retirees, and will she please put PARP down on her ballot as her party-list choice in next May's elections, she promptly scurried away to proclaim to her family that PARP was her party-list choice. The scene will be repeated all over the country before long.

And why not? When Lola, who is certainly a retiree, comes down to choose her party-list candidate, how can she fail to pick PARP, the only candidate pledged to fight for retirees' rights? PARP is the party of all the Lolos and Lolas in the country. PARP members nationwide are at least 60 years old. The average age of the 13-man National Executive Board is about 70.

They have all served the country long and well. They want to serve again.

In the May elections, PARP's party-list candidacy will unleash LOLA POWER. Everyone running for office who ignores LOLA POWER, does so at his peril. Because, as the song from the Broadway musical "Damn Yankees" goes: Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets.

BOI reviewing tax incentive system for infotech projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is currently fine-tuning its policy on the granting of incentives for information and communication technology (ICT) projects on concerns that telecommunication providers were getting too many fiscal perks for expansion projects that only have minor information technology components.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the government wanted to ensure that only ICT projects would get the fiscal perks accorded to the sector and not to the entire project of telecommunication provider.

Roxas noted that some companies were taking advantage of the BOI's thrust to promote ICT by classifying their projects as an ICT undertaking even though their projects have very little link to ICT.

Roxas said that if the government would continue to give incentives to the multibillion-peso investments of telecommunication firms, "it would have no taxes to collect." The BOI grants income tax breaks of between four and six years to registered projects depending on the size and nature of the project.

He cited as an example Smart Communications Inc.'s P17-billion project to boost the capacity of its digital cellular network which obtained pioneer incentives from the government.

He wanted to clarify whether the Smart project was granted incentives because it was classified as an ICT project. He noted that Smart's project involved the expansion of its GSM (global system for mobile communication) network capacity for both voice calls and short messaging system or text messages which meant that its rivals could also ask for the same perks for these projects.

However, under BOI rules, all infrastructure projects worth at least P1 billion are automatically eligible for incentives. The mobile phone business is one of the few robust sectors of the economy and some sectors feel that it does not need government subsidies to expand and meet the growing subscriber base.

The BOI is undertaking the review of the grant of ICT incentives jointly with the Department of Finance which is keen on restraining fiscal perks in view of the widening budget deficit which is expected to hover between P145 billion and P225 billion this year.

The IT sector—particularly software development projects (system software, middleware, and application software); IT-enabled services, support and knowledge-based services; and business process outsourcing—was first listed under the investment priorities plan in 1999. It was expanded further last year to include communication in order to cover infrastructure projects that would support IT development in the country.

Lucent extends $150,000 in aid

LUCENT Technologies, one of the world's leading telecommunications equipment makers, recently contributed $150,000 or about P7 million to the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology's (PFST) Educational Pathways project as part of the company's continuing efforts to support the advancement of youth education in the Philippines.

Lucent Technologies Philippines president Gregg Marshall said the program covers a period of 18 months that began in January 2001. The Educational Pathways project is composed of integrated educational modules that aim to promote science and technology innovation among the youth.

"The grant will help encourage young Filipinos, especially those in poor communities, to be interested in science and technology," Marshall said. The project has identified the Don Jose Ynares Memorial National High School in Binangonan, Rizal, as the pilot school beneficiary.

The Lucent donation commitment was signed by Marshall and PFST chair Amaury Gutierrez. Also present were Department of Education assistant secretary Fe Hildalgo and Binangonan Mayor Cesar Ynares.

The project will be a comprehensive program that extends the benefit of science education to economically depressed communities in and out of Metro Manila. After the 18-month program, Lucent can evaluate the success of the project and may opt to renew its commitment to the foundation for its second phase.

"The grant we received from Lucent is very significant and timely since this will support the fast-tracking of science education's development in the Philippines. This is another example of how the relationship between government and the private sector is strengthened by combining their resources to attain a common objective. With Lucent's support, we are hopeful that teachers and students will benefit from the project and make the science and technology culture more productive," according to PFST director Leticia Moran Zerda.

Cocktales

(From page B3)

Lucky lawyers

AND speaking of PLDT, labor lawyers Domingo Añonuevo and Arno Sanidad are entitled under the Labor Code to a 10-percent cut of the more than P1.048-billion signing bonus package that the two helped obtain for PLDT's Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas.

You do the math. P130,000 signing bonus for each of the 8,067 rank-and-file employees times 10 percent.

That's more than P104 million for the two lawyers. Assuming that in a fit of labor solidarity Añonuevo and Sanidad shaved their fees in half, that is still a whopping P26 million a piece.

And that does not include the lawyers' share on the monthly wage increase of P1,900 for the second year of the CBA and P2,650 for the third year, also for the 8,067 employees that they represented.

Whoever said that socialism is pauperism?

Binays' secret weapon

OUTGOING Mayor Elenita Binay has added more ammunition to the secret weapon that helped her comebacking husband, Jejomar, become the undisputed kingpin of Makati.

From P3 million, the mayor this month increased to P10 million the monthly allocation extended by City Hall to the Makati Medical Center to subsidize the "yellow card" program.

The yellow card program, so-called because of the color of the identification cards issued to recipients, entitles cardholders almost free hospitalization at the country's premiere hospital. In addition to the almost free room and board, surgeon services and medicines are also extended at minimal cost to all Makati City employees, teachers, barangay officials, policemen, poor residents and their dependents.

More than 500,000 voters, whoops, residents have been issued yellow cards since the Binays introduced the program in 1989.

Heard through the grapevine

IN addition to saving his soul, El Shaddai has apparently been good to the finances of confessed bankrupt real estate developer Mike Velarde.

Bro. Mike is currently developing a poor man's version of Tagaytay Highlands, the exclusive upland resort that counts the spiritual head of El Shaddai as one of the few lucky members.

The still unnamed resort will also be located in Tagaytay, within commuting distance from Bro. Mike's log cabin in the Highlands. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

mirant philippines

We See the Opportunity to

GENERATE...

In the past, Southern Energy Philippines, has led the industry by providing permanent solutions to the power crisis. And now, as MIRANT PHILIPPINES, we respond to the worldwide transformation of energy markets and see diverse ways to generate energy. Energy that creates opportunity.

By strategically combining operational excellence, with creative market solutions, we are geared to recognize your intensifying requirements and respond in ways that power the growth of the nation's economy. We can do so because we are empowered by the people who work for us and by the people we serve.

And having reached this level of leadership, we not only have the ability but also the responsibility, to visualize beyond energy by envisioning beyond today. Because at MIRANT PHILIPPINES, we not only see the opportunity to generate high quality energy but ultimately, we see the opportunity to generate infinite possibilities.

MIRANT℠

US RATE CUT TO PERK UP TRADING

Share prices seen to rebound

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

AFTER a two-week slump, the oversold stock market is expected to bounce back over the next few days, but the rise will be held back by concerns over a prolonged turmoil in the US and Japanese financial markets.

Market analysts, however, said that an announcement from the US Federal Open Market Committee of another cut in key US interest rates to perk up the US economy would ease these concerns and pull share prices up.

The 30-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 90 points week-on-week to close at 1,498.32 points, a 5.7 percent decline over the previous week.

"Our latest study now indicates an imminent rally of the Phisix to between 1,517 points and 1,535 points, with a further advance to 1,595 points. The Phisix can be helped along by an almost certain 50 basis point cut by the US Fed in its open market rate next Tuesday," Securities Specialist president Francisco Villaroman said.

"However, we see this followed by a decisive drop to below 1,400. We think that the 1,243 bottom last Oct. 23 (when the Dow bottomed at 9,600) will be tested, and that the eventual drop zone will be nearer the 1,076 bottom in September 1998," Villaroman said.

With the thin volume in the Philippine market, Villaroman said local share prices remained extremely susceptible to knee-jerk reactions to any volatility in the overseas markets.

First Orient Securities head of research Rolando Pineda, on the other hand, said he believed the technical rally last Friday would continue until Tuesday before the market resumes trading within a tight range.

"Once we're back to the 1,500 level, investors would be on a wait-and-see mode if the level would hold. Investors are now more concerned on external rather than internal developments and it might be too early to see some positioning for the May senatorial elections," Pineda said.

Irving Ackerman, president of I. Ackerman & Co. said the outlook this week remained grim as investors lacked any incentive to buy. "It will be exactly like the previous week, a little bit up, a little bit down. No major movement."

Ackerman noted that the broker-dealer provision in the Securities Regulation Code—which prevents brokers from trading for their own account except by coursing transactions through another broker—was not helping improve market liquidity.

"This is why the market is lifeless and dull. I've been in the market for 39 years and I've never seen the mood looking so grim. The time

SHARE/ B17

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, March 16, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	68	69.5	68	69.5	308,600
China Banking Corp.	650	650	650	650	30
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	54,400
First E-Bank Corporation	2	2	2	2	3,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	65	68.5	65	68.5	5,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	220	223	218	219	97,800
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	400
Philippine National Bank	43	44	43	44	80,400
Security Bank Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21	179,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	2,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	98,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1230	1230	1230	1230	4,910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	880	890	875	885	3,900
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	22,600
Diversified Fin. Network	9	9	9	9	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.51	0.52	3,190,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	2,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	120,000
Piltel	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.6	380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	765	760	760	70,370
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.065	0.0675	0.0625	0.065	146,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	48	48	48	48	4,300
Manila Electric Co. B	55	56	54.5	56	296,600
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	2,656,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.12	1,112,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	70,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.16	540,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	11	11	10.25	10.25	5,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	285,500
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	35	35	34.5	34.5	60,400
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	45,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	48	47	47	31,200
San Miguel Corp. B	53	53.5	53	53	31,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.5	700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	50,000
Ayala Corp.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	1,322,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.5	1.52	1.46	1.46	2,373,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	12	11.5	12	1,300
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	190,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	310,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.65	2.7	1,545,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.87	1.4	0.87	1.4	67,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.14	304,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	85,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	450,000
Ionics Inc.	12	12.25	11.75	12	182,000
Ipeople Inc. B	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	40,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	35,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.83	0.84	670,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.51	0.52	2,220,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	115,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	840,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	180,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.26	0.29	0.25	0.29	82,890,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,080,000
Music Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.55	2.55	955,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	700,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.13	0.13	350,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	60,000
Spi Technologies Inc.	12	12	11.75	11.75	320,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	40,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	1,210,000
Manila Jockey Club	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	42	43	42	42	299,300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	17,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	12,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	16,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	2,100
Waterfront Phils-Warrant	0.05	0.055	0.05	0.055	400,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	350	350	350	20	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	5,771,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.28	0.26	0.27	2,210,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	1,520,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	15,910,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	5,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.22	2.24	2.12	2.14	11,239,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	1	1	1	1	7,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	150,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.07	9,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	3,000,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	299,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	1,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.004	0.004	0.0038	0.0038	16,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	17,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.0825	1,900,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	360,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	849,340	63,061,065.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	296,272,390	172,623,135.00
PRO	50,111,000	73,112,015.00
Mining	26,500,000	221,100.00
OIL	32,510,000	416,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	406,242,730	309,434,015.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	596.14	UP 5.11
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,048.81	UP 7.33
PRO	566.04	UP 3.41
Mining	1,227.69	UP 16.33
OIL	1.65	DOWN 0.17
All Shares Index	733.64	UP 7.57
Composite	1,498.32	UP 6.71

NO. OF ADVANCES: 33; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 103; NO. OF TRADES: 2,004

Stocks up

(From page B1)

investors remained.

The 33-share composite index added 6.71 points, or 0.45 percent, to end at 1,498.32 points. The index was in positive territory for the entire session.

Despite the gains, the main index lost 90.07 points, or 5.67 percent, for the week, mirroring the sharp losses on Wall Street.

Turnover slowed to P308.48 million from Thursday's P382.6 million. Gainers and losers were at equilibrium at 33 each, with 37 issues unchanged. *Reuters*

shareXCHANGE

YOUR TRUSTWORTHY CLUB SHARES CONSULTANT

OVER 25 YEARS IN COMBINED CLUB SHARES EXPERIENCE! SEC LIC. #99

Partial list CLUBS	03/16/2001 ASKED Price	Share Swapping: Please Call CLUBS	BID Price
BAGUIO CC	820,000	ALABANG "A"	1,900,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	430,000	ALABANG "B"	1,950,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	500,000	BAGUIO CC	775,000
CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,000,000
EASTRIDGE	240,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	CALL NOW!	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	860,000
LUISITA GCC "A"	620,000	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	150,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	400,000	ORCHARD "A"	290,000
MT. MALARAYAT "A"	550,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
MT. MALARAYAT "C"	1,100,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
ORCHARD "B"	600,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,150,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,180,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
THE COUNTRY CLUB	CALL NOW!	WACK WACK GOLF	10,000,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	30,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MAKATI SPORTS	45,000	TAGAYTAY GOLF	65,000
MANILA GOLF (ASSIGNEE)	500,000/yr.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	50,000	WACK WACK	100,000

TERE TABUENA, LYRA, CARMEN, FRANCO DEL ROSARIO
809-8233 / 809-8263 / 850-5870-71 / 0918-9043306
E-mail: clubshar@eveserve.com / Fax: 809-8074

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of March 19, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,900,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	2,000,000	-
Baguio Country Club	-	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	110,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	160,000
Camp John Hay	300,000	375,000
Canlubang	850,000	900,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	2,000,000	2,200,000
Celebrity Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Club Filipino	300,000	330,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	260,000
Evercrest "A"	110,000	130,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	275,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	280,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	450,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	420,000	450,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	500,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	18,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	14,800,000	16,000,000
Manila Polo	3,600,000	-
Manila Southwoods "A"	850,000	920,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	950,000	1,100,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	200,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Ind./Corp.)	Please Call	Please Call
Montemar (Corp.)	-	55,000
Montemar (Ind.)	-	40,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	450,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	300,000	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	350,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	650,000	650,000
Philippine Columbian	85,000	95,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	150,000	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	230,000	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	300,000
Sta. Elena "A"	2,100,000	-
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	2,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.)	400,000	600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.)	-	350,000
Tagaytay Country Club	490,000	530,000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	880,000	950,000
Valle Verde (Ind)	200,000	220,000
Valley Golf	350,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	9,000,000	10,000,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)
Manila Golf 450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI Tel # 840-1761 • Fax # 894-3021 / 750-7894
ALABANG Tel # 850-8223 • Fax # 807-1021
GG&A offers Club Management and Marketing Services
GG&A Club Development, Inc.
Tel # 840-1761 loc 131/119 • Fax # 894-3021/750-7894

Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City
E-mail at ggashare@mozcom.com
Visit us at our website http://welcome.to/gga

Valet Parking Available
Call us now at our Hotlines: 751-GOLF(4653) 751-CLUB(2582)

CitiShares

SEC Reg Number A199981326

Please call: JENNIE & LILIAN
6383858
6362795
(0917)9838102
Tfax:6352823

FINANCING 20-30% D.P
CLUBSHARES Loan up to 70%
Playing rights available

CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang CC	Pls. Call	1,900,000
Baguio CC	850,000	750,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	115,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	200,000
Eagleridge	Pls. Call	400,000
Evercrest	140,000	
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	160,000	-
Fontana D	90,000	-
Forest Hills A	Pls. call	280,000
Malarayat	550,000	
Manila Golf	15,500,000	Pls. call
Manila Polo	-	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	Pls. Call	850,000
Manila Southwoods B	Pls. call	900,000
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	350,000	290,000
Riviera	280,000	250,000
Sta.Elena	Pls. call	-
Subic Golf	310,000	-
Subic Yacht Club	450,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	495,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Midlands	900,000	850,000
Tagaytay Highlands	Pls. call	1,200,000
Tivoli Royale	230,000	-
Valley golf	Pls. Call	330,000
Valle Verde	200,000	175,000
Wack-wack	Pls. Call	8,000,000

ANG TAN GOLF, CLUB & SHARES, INC.

SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
288 Kalentong Street Mandaluyong City

SEC Licensed Broker 10573

SELLING		[illegible]	
Baguio Country Club	800 000	Canlubang Golf	850 000
Camp John Hay Golf	350 000	Capitol Hills	115 000
Capitol Hills	115 000	Celebrity	210 000
Celebrity	220 000	Club Filipino	300 000
Club Filipino	325 000	Eagle Ridge A	450 000
Eagle Ridge A	475 000	Evercrest	110 000
Eagle Ridge C	575 000	Manila Golf (Indiv)	15 000 000
Eastridge	220 000	Manila Golf (Corp)	16 000 000
Forest Hills A & B	280 000	Manila Polo	3 500 000
Manila Golf (Indiv)	15 000 000	Manila Southwoods A	850 000
Manila Golf (Corp)	16 000 000	Manila Southwoods B	950 000
Manila Polo	3 500 000	Makati Sports A & B	450 000
Manila Southwoods A	850 000	Metropolitan A	Please call
Makati Sports B	500 000	Mt. Malarayat B	450 000
Mt. Malarayat A	450 000	Orchard A, B, C	Please call
Mt. Malarayat B	550 000	Puerto Azul	120 000
Orchard A, B, C	Please call	Quezon City Sports	230 000
Riviera A	280 000	Riviera A	250 000
Riviera B	350 000	Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Sta. Elena A	2 100 000	Sta. Elena A	2 000 000
Sta. Elena B	2 750 000	Sta. Elena B	2 700 000
Tagaytay Highland Club	490 000	Sherwood B & C	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1 200 000	Tagaytay Highland Club	470 000
Tagaytay Midlands	890 000	Tagaytay Highland Golf	1 200 000
Wack Wack	9 500 000	Tagaytay Midlands	800 000
BUYING:		Valle Verde CC	150 000
Alabang A	1 900 000	Valley Golf	350 000
Alabang B	Please call	Wack Wack	9 250 000
Baguio Country Club	775 000		

Other shares & Assignment available.
Tagaytay Highland & Midland Shares, Lot
Condo + installment
Greenhills 33 SM house, Condo + rental, warehouse,
Rowland Cornthan, Deams etc.

CONNIE ANG
Trading Manager/Real Estate Broker
Fil-estate Branch Manager

(24 Hours)
Tel. Nos. 256-3188
256-6001
256-3891

FRANCISCO V. DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS, INC.

OUR 19th Year

YOUR TRUSTED SPECIALIST BROKER SINCE 1982 • SEC License #211
BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF MARCH 16, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,900,000.00
2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	800,000.00
3	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	110,000.00	-
4	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	150,000.00	
5	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB	500,000.00	
6	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000.00	
7	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	600,000.00	-
8	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	-	350,000.00
9	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	
10	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	16,000,000.00	14,000,000.00
11	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000.00	3,200,000.00
12	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	800,000.00
13	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	-	175,000.00
14	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Individual)	30,000.00	-
15	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Corporate)	50,000.00	
16	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	600,000.00	
17	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	650,000.00	-
18	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	-	130,000.00
19	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	95,000.00	-
20	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	250,000.00	240,000.00
21	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	1,900,000.00
22	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	-	1,100,000.00
23	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	1,000,000.00	-
24	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	175,000.00
25	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		300,000.00
26	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		8,500,000.00

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE
AMELIA B. MAGAT - Asst. Treas./Comptroller
ROMEO M. RIBANO - Senior Vice President & Treasurer
SHIONEL PIGA / REYNALDO CUEVAS
GROUND FLR., TUSCAN BLDG., 114 HERRERA ST.,
LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI CITY
TELS 818-6991 • 818-6936 • 818-6946 FAX, 818-5453
E-MAIL fvrh@v-link.net

FPDsavills

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

PROPERTIES FOR SALE OR LONG TERM LEASE

Malugay Property 8,056 sq.m.

The land is strategically located within close proximity to Ayala Avenue and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue intersection. Based on preliminary studies, we believe the site to be ideally suitable for:
Business hotel and serviced apartments
Residential condominium
Office - Grade 'B'
Improvements on the property include five semi-concrete buildings with a gross floor area of 4,182 sq.m. No height restrictions applicable.

Jupiter Exchange 35,037 sq.m.

The property comprises a large site of about 3.5 hectares well located near the financial, residential and entertainment districts of Makati. We believe the site is ideally suitable for:
Retail establishments
Office - Grade 'B'
Improvements on the property include a 2-level semi-concrete office-warehouse/shop bordered by a concrete fence.
With current Floor Area Ratio (FAR): 5

For more information, please contact the sole agents:

David Leechiu
Tel: (02) 885 0595
Fax: (02) 885 0578
dleechiu@fpdsavills.com.ph

Paul Ryan Isip
Tel: (02) 885 0580 loc. 307
Fax: (02) 885 0578
pisip@fpdsavills.com.ph

Cromwell Dey
Tel: (02) 885 0580 loc. 308
Fax: (02) 885 0578
cdey@fpdsavills.com.ph

(02) 885 0580

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.

SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF MARCH 16, 2001

		SELLING	BUYING
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"		1,800,000
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"		1,900,000
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	750,000
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	150,000	100,000
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	400,000	320,000
6	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		850,000
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	130,000	120,000
8	CELEBRITY CLUB	220,000	200,000
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS		490,000
10	CLUB FILIPINO	340,000	320,000
11	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
12	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"		400,000
13	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
14	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls Call
15	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	300,000	260,000
16	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	550,000	
17	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	
18	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000	400,000
19	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	500,000	
20	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	16,500,000	
21	MANILA POLO CLUB		2,600,000
22	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"		850,000
23	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	1,000,000	900,000
24	MANILA YACHT CLUB	580,000	
25	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	190,000	170,000
26	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	200,000	
27	MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	500,000	400,000
28	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	Pls Call	300,000
29	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	Pls Call	400,000
30	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	Pls Call	600,000
31.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "B"		120,000
32	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	260,000	
33	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	290,000	
34	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	600,000	500,000
35	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	2,000,000	1,900,000
37	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500,000	
38	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB		1,100,000
39	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	950,000	
40.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB		175,000
41	VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		350,000
42.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	9,500,000	7,500,000

ASSIGNMENT OF PLAYING RIGHTS PLS. CALL

JUST S. VIRAY
TRADING MANAGER

LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA / FINAS VIRAY
TEL. NOS. 8175655 / 8121066 / 8193560
7517982 PB#150 – 856000

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

Please, no more sweet-talk

THE NEXT person that says, "When the US sneezes, the Philippines catches cold" is going to get my Moron of the Year award. What would we do here in the Philippines if it were not for the US? When the economy gets tough, we get green cards. When we need a legal opinion, we look at the US law books. When we need someone to blame, we picket the US Embassy. I wonder what other countries like Thailand do? The truth is our stock market and peso are not related to the US markets right now more than any other market.

I wrote several months ago that the US was in an economic war with the rest of the world. The purpose of that war was to make other countries as dependent as possible on the US consumer market for sales of their goods and services. As in any war, even the one who is winning suffers some losses. The US had to insure a strong dollar through very high real interest rates in its continuing battle for economic supremacy.

As a result, the US economy faltered, slipped, and is now falling. But that is good in the long run for the Philippine economy. The US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates and that will allow their consumers to buy more of our exported goods. That will continue to improve our trade and foreign money picture.

As the US is our biggest customer, we are in an excellent position to take advantage of them over the next few months. Look for a moment at the past 18 months. Interest rates have been rising and yet it is only in the last three months or so that US consumer spending has slowed down. When interest rates fall even further, there will be a consumer boom in the US.

I hope we are ready to increase our share of their economic pie.

The biggest problem child in the world economic scene is Japan. Its government could not find a sound economic policy with a map and a flashlight while wearing a St. Christopher medal. (For me, once a saint, always a saint.) From the people who brought us comfort women and suicide pilots, theirs is an economy where you can borrow all the funds you want for 5-percent interest and they still have no economic growth. I guess we are fortunate that Thailand stole a large share of our export market to Japan several years ago.

Our stock market did mirror the drops in New York last week, although I still maintain this is somewhat coincidental than joined by absolute circumstance.

The only tie-in I can see is that there is a liquidity squeeze in the US as here. Our interest rates continue to fall but this has not translated into more money in the economy, as borrowers are still hesitant to get fresh loans from the banks. Also why borrow now when there will be lower rates in the future.

Soon the lowered rates will put more funds into the economy that will, in part, go into the stock market, raising prices.

I wrote in my e-mail analysis that I would not even be concerned in the long term if the Phisix index fell to the 1,300 area. I still believe that is a possibility.

Franky says that prices are going to rise maybe as high as 1,600. That's the good news. The bad news is that he then predicts a fall to that 1,300 area and could go as low as the recent low of 1,075. I have no problem with his scenario. Key levels on the way down are 1,350 and 1,250. The 1,050 area will not surprise me if it happens. The chicken entrails that I use and Franky's Kama Sutra methods are telling us exactly the same thing for a change. And Franky's ways are more fun than mine are. The strategy right now is to use any extended rally as an opportunity to get out of losing positions that are making you suffer and lose sleep.

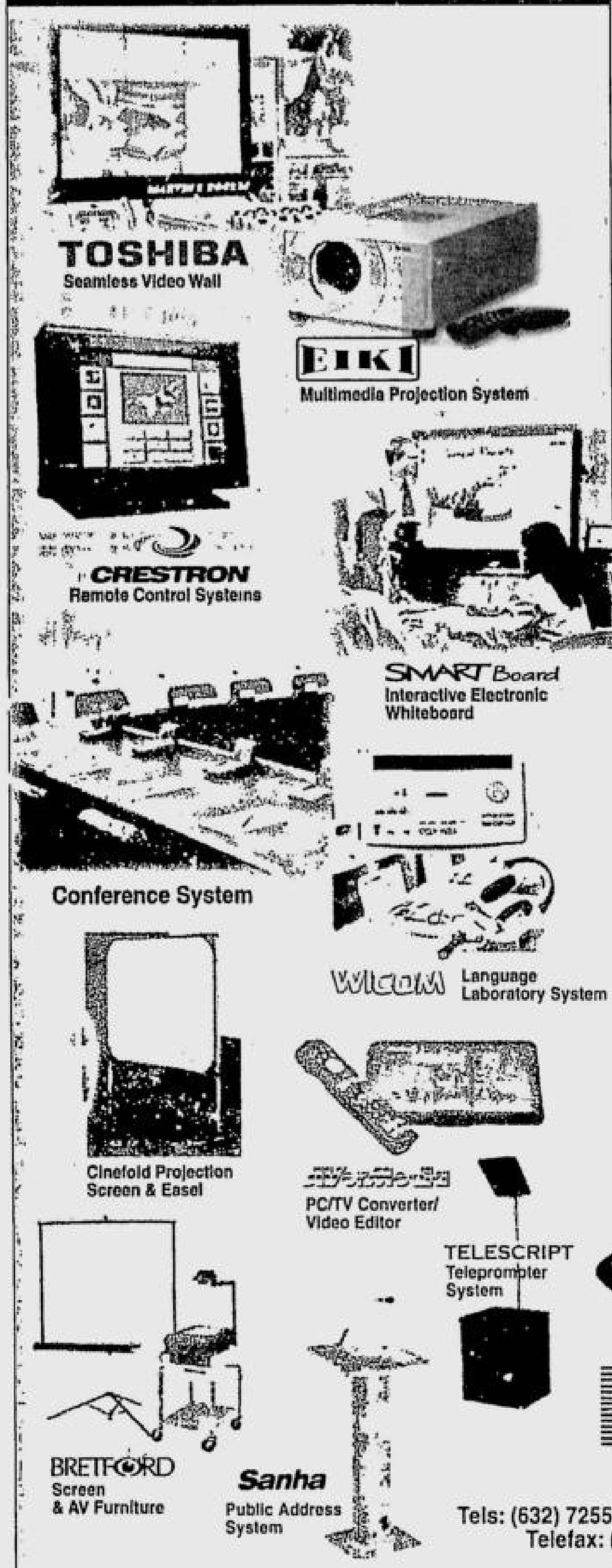
The biggest fundamental problem facing stock prices is not found in New York. If you are a somewhat fanatical PPP (People Power Person), turn quickly now to the Lifestyle section and read here no further.

As I said last week, stock prices are not a way of measuring the approval of the President. But it is a mirror of the economy and business activity in general. For the past two months, the focus from Malacañang has been the Estrada prosecution and renewed peace talks with the MILF and the NPA. These issues may be good politically and for the country in general but add nothing immediate to the economic situation. Our new finance secretary talks about San Miguel and the government's position on the current management but little about new economic ideas or plans. International investors are getting firm platitudes not firm proposals. The administration told the world how bad the policies of the past administration and their results were to the Philippine economy. So when are we going to hear some new policies and proposals? If the President and her economic advisors wait until after the election to start, that will most certainly give the market plenty of time to fall to 1,050. This stock market is not looking for concrete results just yet. It is looking for direction and focus out of Malacañang that is just not forthcoming. You just cannot fool, psychologically manipulate, or sweet-talk money for any length of time. That is why stock prices are back to pre-Jan. 20th levels.

* * *

A fond birthday greeting to our good friend Dolly Sison. Dolly spends half the year in the US and is in Manila now, having recently attended the wedding of her daughter.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)


TOSHIBA
Seamless Video Wall
EIKI
Multimedia Projection System
CRESTRON
Remote Control Systems
SMART Board
Interactive Electronic Whiteboard
Conference System
WICOM Language Laboratory System
Cinefold Projection Screen & Easel
PC/TV Converter/ Video Editor
TELESCRIPT Teleprompter System
BRETFORD Screen & AV Furniture
Sanha Public Address System

The right system integration for perfect presentations

From sales and rentals of world-famous audio-visual equipment to more comprehensive designs and total systems integration for **Boardrooms**, **Training Rooms**, **Command Centers** and **Audio-Visual Rooms**, we've got the right mix of equipment, accessories, manpower and technical know-how to satisfy your every need.

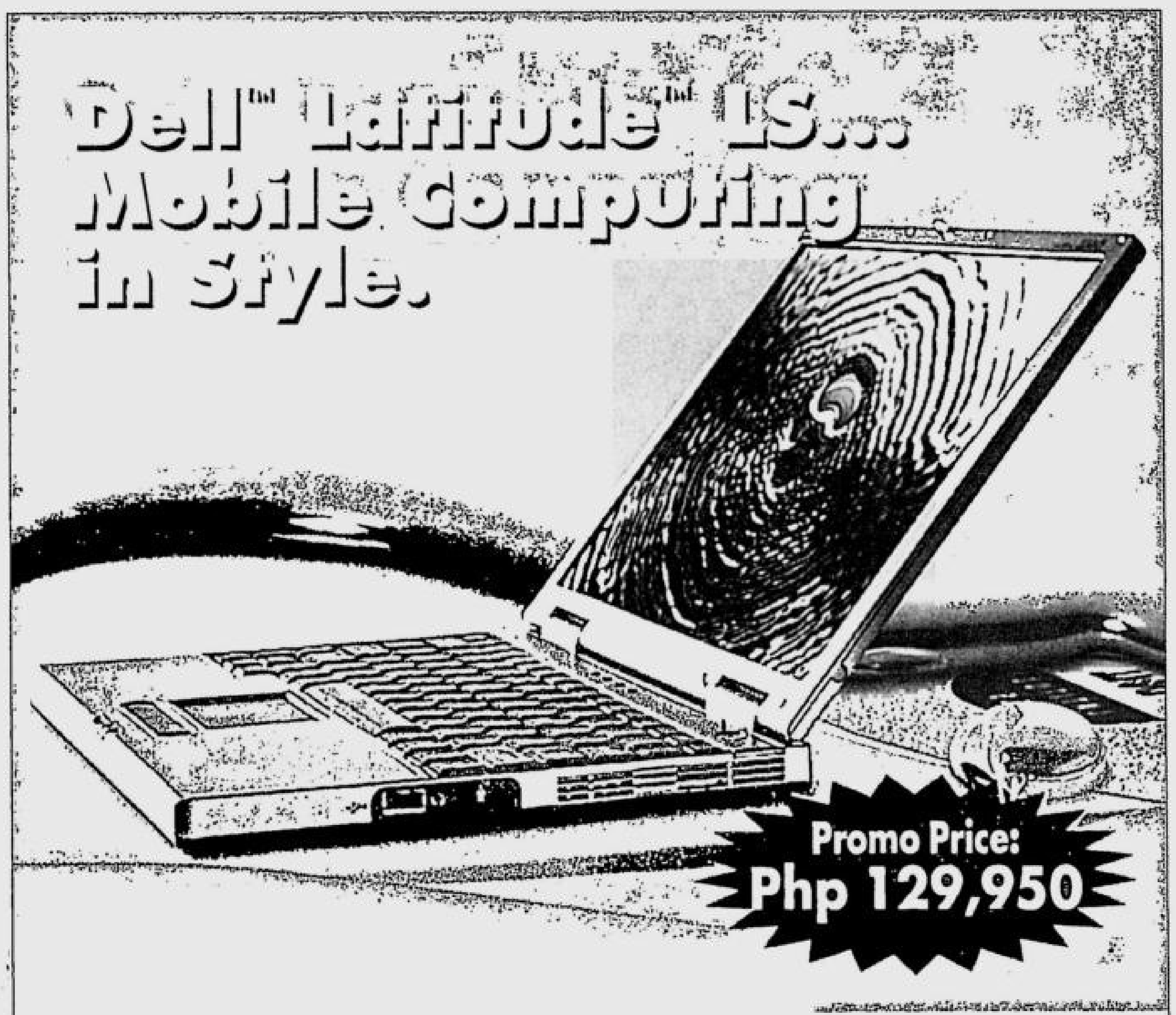
Call us. We'll be pleased to work out the scheme that best suits your need.

• DESIGN • SYSTEM INTEGRATION • SALES • RENTALS

The Brain Computer Corporation
The one stop audio visual shop!
C-5 Narra Lane 2/F, Virra Mall Shopping Center,
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

Tels: (632) 7255424 • 7250608 • 7271824 • 7250437 • 7259359 • 7262509
Telefax: (632) 7210953 • 7216145 • Infopage (127) 717312
E-mail: brain@mozcom.com

Dell™ Latitude™ LS... Mobile Computing in Style.



Dell™ Latitude™ LS

- Intel® Pentium® III processor 500MHz
- 12.1" XGA Color TFT Active Matrix Display
- 128MB RAM (up to 256MB)
- 20GB Hard Disk Drive
- 24X CD-ROM
- Integrated Ethernet + 56K Modem
- Microsoft® Windows® 98
- 3 Years Limited Warranty on Parts and Service
- 1 Year On-Site Service

Meet the Dell™ Latitude™ LS, a high performance notebook in a slim and sleek design. Weighing only 1.62kg and 25.7mm high, the Latitude™ LS is the ideal travel companion for executives always on the go.

Loaded with Intel® Pentium® III processor 500MHz and 128MB RAM (up to 256MB) memory capacity, the Latitude™ LS lets you do your work anywhere – hassle-free – with its built-in 56kpbs V.90 modem and a 10/100-Base TX PCI bus master Ethernet controller. Mobile computing has never been this stylish and potent.

The Dell™ Latitude™ LS is maintained by a 3-year limited warranty on parts and service and a "1-year on-site" service.

Get today's most sophisticated pack of mobile computing power in a slim and sleek case.

intel inside pentium® III

Give your business the notebook you need. Call our local Dell distributor now to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you.

ACCENT MICRO TECHNOLOGIES, INC.,
Manila : Suite 1408 14F Antel Global Corporate Center,
Julia Vargas Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Cebu : Suite 705 7F Golden Peak Tower, Gorordo Ave,
cor. N. Escario St. Cebu City
E-mail to sales@amti.com.ph.

Dell Recommends Windows 2000 Professional for Business

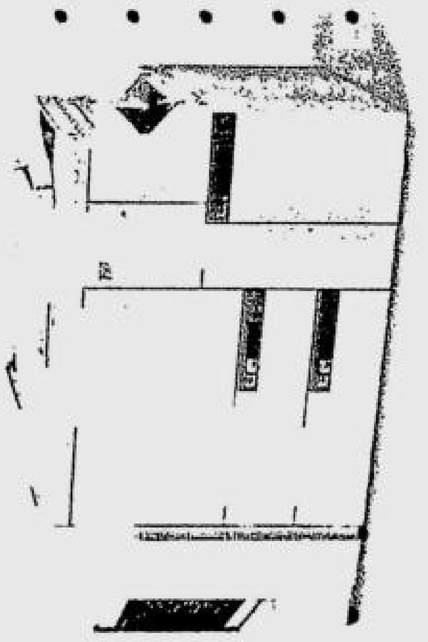
Prices, specifications and availability subject to change without notice. Dell, the Dell logo and Latitude are trademarks of Dell Computer Corporation. Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows and Windows NT are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other trademarks and trade names may be used in this document to refer to either the entities claiming marks and names or their products. Dell disclaims proprietary interest in the marks and names of others. Dell is not responsible for errors in typography and photography. Photographed with options. Please write to Dell Asia Pacific Sdn. At Plot P27, Bayan Lepas Industrial Zone, Phase IV, 11900 Penang, Malaysia for a complete copy of Dell's warranty offerings. Copyright 2000 Dell Computer Corporation. All rights reserved.

DELL™

BUY DELL
MANILA 637 3254/636 3563
CEBU 032 233 7933/233 7937
OR VISIT www.amti.com.ph

SHARP

- low rental rates
- efficient service from well-trained personnel
- new state-of-the-art models available
- complete accessories for efficient operation
- lease-to-own terms available



RENT Sharp Copiers

Copy Quest Corporation
SHARP Copying Machine Center
65 Sen. G. Puyat Ave., Makati City
Tels.: 845-4054 to 57
Fax: 843-4273
Website: www.sharpcopier.com.ph
Email: info@sharpcopier.com.ph

Gov't aims for credit ratings upgrade

By Clarissa S. Batino

CREDIT rating firm Ibca Fitch has revised its negative outlook for the Philippines to stable, and removed the country from its negative watchlist, which would have meant a rating downgrade in the next three months.

"The government is very pleased with this development and we are hoping that S&P and Moody's would follow suit soon," said Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo.

A ratings upgrade, however, is not forthcoming in the near term. Fitch said it would be premature to consider an upgrade with the many challenges that still await President Macapagal-Arroyo and her team.

Romulo said the improved outlook was a positive signal. "But the government could not be complacent because there are still a lot of work, particularly in fiscal discipline, to do."

Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investor Services, and Ibca Fitch had downgraded their outlook for the Philippines to negative from stable late last year at the height of the political instability that rocked the Estrada administration.

The three gave the Philippines below investment grade ratings or a BB+ (by S&P and Fitch) and Ba1 (by Moody's).

Standard & Poor's was scheduled to send a mission in early February but had postponed the trip to await further developments in the Macapagal administration.

Fitch's outlook downgrade was handed down days before a popular revolt that booted former President Estrada out of office.

The rating company pointed to the peaceful transition of power to an "experienced and well respected politician with a track record of supporting reforms" to be a crucial factor in deciding for the country's removal from its negative watch.

"Much now depends on how quickly the new administration asserts control over public finances, rekindles structural adjustment and rebuilds bridges with international financial institutions," Fitch said in its revised outlook.

Fitch , however, said the risk would be high if the new government would fail to deliver on its promises to exercise fiscal discipline.

Aside from the country's lax fiscal discipline leading to a huge public debt, Fitch also counts as among the Philippines' weaknesses its low domestic savings rate, high population growth, high dependence on electronic exports, and a poor record in structural reforms.

What could work well for the country, according to Fitch, is a comfortable level of external debt and liquidity ratios, outstanding export growth and a reasonably sound banking system.

"While our current assessment of the Philippines is much less upbeat than our last full review in July 1999, the recent turmoil in political leadership could have a potentially significant silver lining," Fitch said in the outlook review.

The promise of better governance, said the ratings firm, could have a positive impact on the ratings. Romulo acknowledged that the government has to contain the deficit within the target to truly win back the confidence of investors.

The Macapagal administration said the budget gap could widen to P225 billion this year but Romulo said the government would do its best to contain the number to P130 to P145 billion.

Last year, the Estrada administration incurred a deficit of P136.1 billion, far beyond its target of P62.5 billion. As a result, the country failed a three-year program with the International Monetary Fund.

Standard & Poor's had downgraded its outlook for the Philippines in mid-October last year, a week after the "Juetengate" scandal involving Estrada erupted. A week later, Moody's Investor Service also revised its outlook to negative.

The outlooks downgrade from the three top rating firms had triggered increases in the country's borrowing rates and pushed wider the spread of sovereign bonds trading in the global secondary market.

SMC nears takeover of Pure Foods

By Elena R. Torrijos

FOOD and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. is scheduled to sign this week a formal agreement with Ayala Corp., the holding company of the Zobel family, that will "push forward" its acquisition of Pure Foods Corp., the food manufacturing unit of the Ayala group.

Sources said the agreement would cover the canned goods manufacturing and the poultry and meat processing units that produce a variety of market-leading canned goods, processed meat and poultry products under the Pure Foods brand name.

Sources said San Miguel also planned to acquire Pure Foods' basketball franchise with the Philippine Basketball Association that would likely be combined with San Miguel's own team in the PBA.

The Burger King franchise, however, was expected to be carved out of the sales agreement.

Sources said the acquisition price has not yet been determined pending the completion of a stringent due diligence review.

Ayala Corp. president Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala has met with employees of Pure Foods last week and informed them of the company's imminent sale to San Miguel.

San Miguel has indicated plans to take over the operations and management of Pure Foods by May 11, just days after the beer manufacturer's May 3 stockholders meeting.

San Miguel confirmed early this month that it has agreed on the indicative terms of the acquisition of the Ayala Corp.'s 93-percent stake in Pure Foods.

SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. declined to disclose the acquisition price but said it would be below the P9-billion price as rumored in the market.

Joseph Roxas, nominee of Eagle Equities, said the stock market would welcome San Miguel's acquisition of Pure Foods even at a hefty price tag of P9 billion. This should result, he said, in a jump in Pure Foods share prices

Pure Foods reported a 22-percent increase in its net income last year to P888.4 million, compared to P727.8 million the previous year.

Consolidated net sales reached P12.6 billion, up 19 percent the previous year due mainly to higher sales of the company's processed meats, poultry and feed businesses.

Roxas said SMC was expected to take advantage of Pure Foods' flour mills to enter the flourishing noodle business.

"SMC can use that to create more synergies," Roxas said.

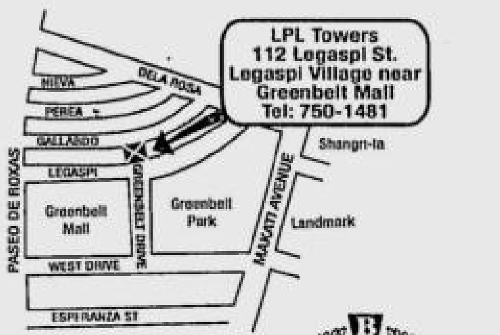
CURRENCIES

March 16, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.113586	1.000000	48.3670
Japan	Yen	0.009099	0.008171	0.3952
United Kingdom	Pound	1.598552	1.435500	69.4308
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142778	0.128215	6.2014
Switzerland	Franc	0.649928	0.583635	28.2287
Canada	Dollar	0.714020	0.641190	31.0124
Singapore	Dollar	0.628329	0.564239	27.2905
Australia	Dollar	0.550000	0.493900	23.8885
Bahrain	Dinar	2.953965	2.652661	128.3013
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.296924	0.266638	12.8965
Brunei	Dollar	0.628506	0.564398	27.2982
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000101	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.025384	0.022795	1.1025
UAE	Dirham	0.303198	0.272272	13.1690
Korea	Won	0.000867	0.000779	0.0377
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.898000	43.4336
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.45914	22.2072
France	Franc	0.152450	0.136899	6.6214
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.407495	19.7093
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065260	3.1564
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022261	1.0767
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000464	0.0224
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151033	7.3050
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004479	0.2166
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005397	0.2610
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022261	1.0767
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.140225	55.1493

Have your shoes
PROUDLY MADE IN MAKATI.
(LPL Towers, 112 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village near Greenbelt Mall)

Besa's Shoes opens its new branch in Greenbelt to offer you the most complete shoe and leather repair plus other services. We also do made-to-order footwear for men and ladies.



The world's best shoe care products.

BESA'S SINCE 1935
We keep you proud of your shoes.

ORTIGAS CENTER Basement Level (Food Court)
Shangri-la Plaza Mall
Edsa cor. Shaw Blvd Mandaluyong City
Tel 637-6430 / 31

CASH & CARRY SUPERMART
Unit 12 Shopper's Mall II
South Superhighway, Makati City
Tel (632) 843-2505. Telefax (632) 842-4265

ALABANG
Makati Supermart Alabang
Alabang Town Center Ayala Alabang
Muntinlupa City Tel 842-4337

ALABANG
Shopwise SuperCenter
Festival Mall Filinvest
Tel 842-9004

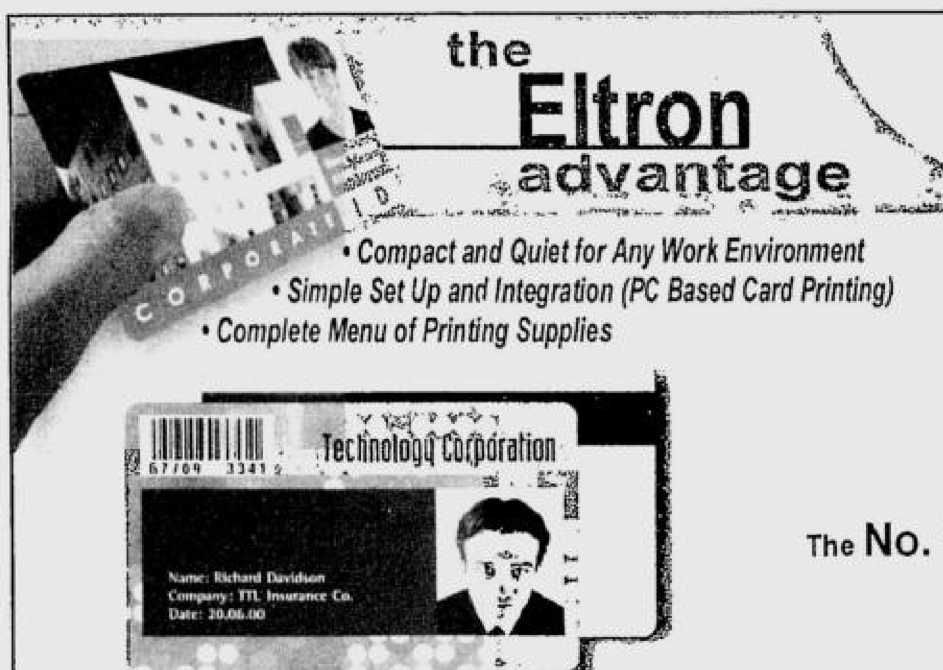
MAKATI
Park Square 2
Near Glorietta Ayala Center
Tel 812-2910

MAKATI
Goldcrest Shopping Center
Glorietta Ayala Center
Tel 893-7783

SAN JUAN
West Greenhills
213 Wilson St. San Juan,
Metro Manila Tel. 726-9945 / 48

GREENHILLS
Shoppesville Arcade
G/Floor Greenhills Shopping Center
San Juan Tel 724-3363

STA MESA
SM Centerpoint
South Entrance G/Floor
Tel 716 2271

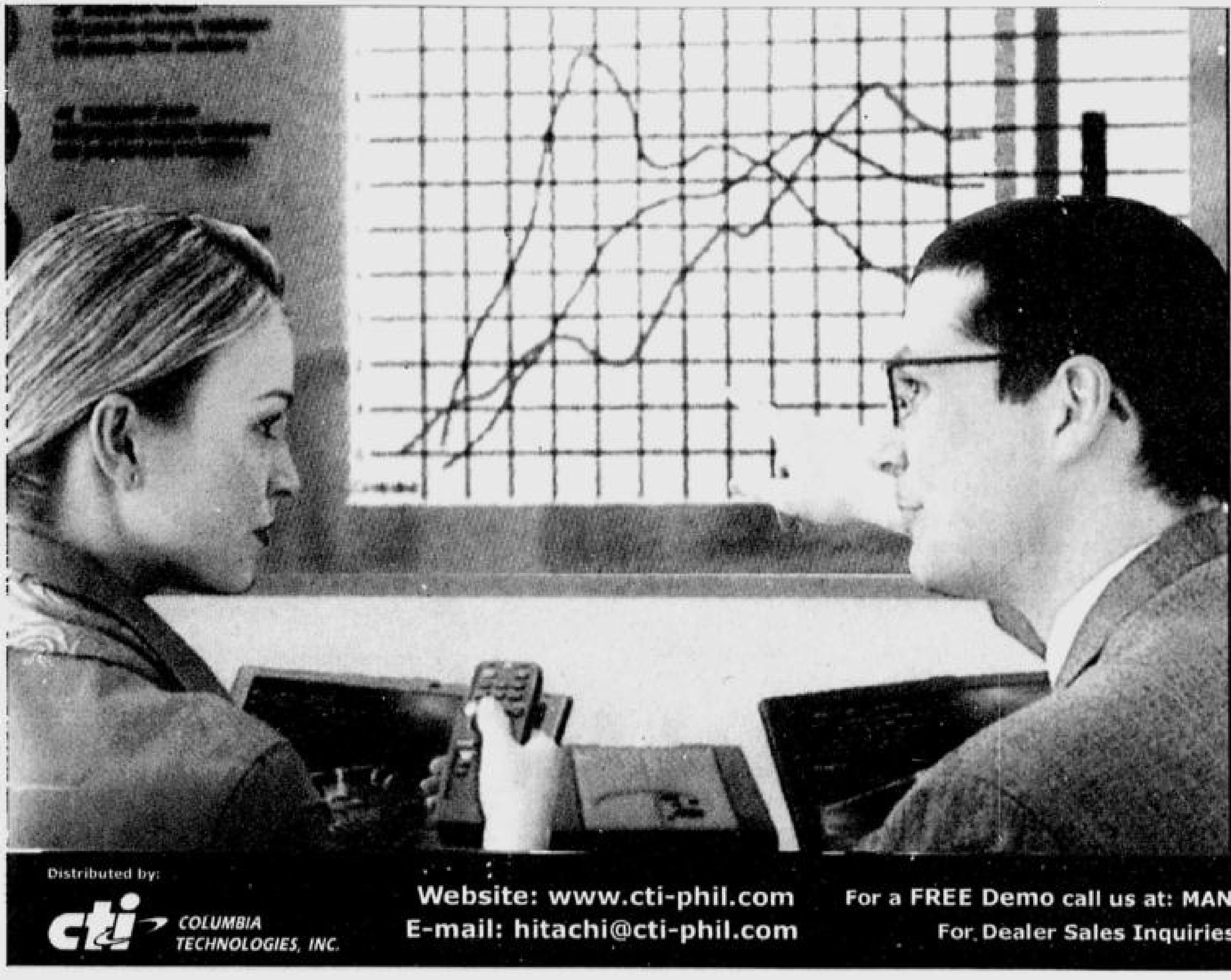


the Eltron advantage
- Compact and Quiet for Any Work Environment
- Simple Set Up and Integration (PC Based Card Printing)
- Complete Menu of Printing Supplies

Produce a variety of personalized cards with Eltron®
CARD PRINTER PRODUCTS
The No. 1 Plastic Card Printer Manufacturer in Europe.

Resellers are welcome preferably from the areas of:
CAGAYAN • BULACAN • PAMPANGA • ZAMBALES • CALABARZON • ALBAY • CAMARINES NORTE
ILOILO • NEGROS OCCIDENTAL • CEBU • LEYTE • ZAMBOANGA • MISAMIS ORIENTAL • DAVAO

AVLS
For Details, please contact us at :
All Visual & Lights Systems
Tel. Nos.: 911-0904 / 911-0947 Fax No.: 912-8307
C-15 3/F, New Farmers Plaza, Araneta Center, Cubao, Q.C.



PUT IT TO THE TEST, LET US SHOW YOU HOW TO BE AT YOUR BEST!

HITACHI
Inspire the Next

Distributed by:
cti COLUMBIA TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
Website: www.cti-phil.com
E-mail: hitachi@cti-phil.com
For a FREE Demo call us at: MANILA:3382371/5226986 CAVITE:(046)8750847 CEBU:(032)2327380
For Dealer Sales Inquiries: Call 5240393 Loc. 205 Look for Terry, Wally, Abel or Ronie

BOI rejects Philip Morris petition for tax incentives

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has thumbed down Philip Morris International's bid to get incentives for its $300-million cigarette manufacturing facility in Batangas.

The American tobacco giant's project was deemed ineligible for fiscal perks not only because cigarette manufacturing was not listed among the industries being promoted by the government, it also could not comply with the BOI's minimum requirement on foreign-controlled companies to export at least 70 percent of their output.

Under the plan, Philip Morris' project will export only 30 percent to 40 percent of its proposed annual output of 30 billion to 40 billion sticks.

Philip Morris will take an 80-percent stake in a joint venture with longtime Philippine partner La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Manufacturing Co. to implement the project. The facility will break ground this year and start operations by 2003.

Underscoring the importance of incentives to the cigarette manufacturing facility, top officials of Philip Morris are scheduled to visit Malacañang later this week to appeal their case.

But considering the size of the project and its probable impact on investor confidence, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the project was still up for reconsideration. He said the BOI would review whether it would be possible to grant the fiscal perks "pro-rata" or to grant them only for the export component of Philip Morris' production.

Roxas said the project, which was unveiled during the Estrada administration, "would be a very good start for the country because it would improve the country's chances of attracting more investors."

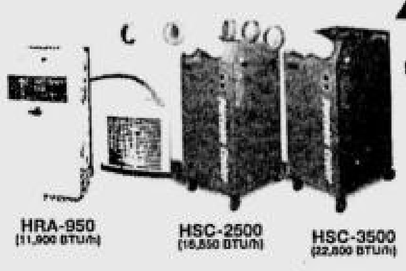
He said Philip Morris had decided to build its logistics hub and manufacturing base in the Philippines rather than in Malaysia or Indonesia, because of the country's strategic location in Asean, its Western-style business practices and its English-speaking workforce.

However, the government has been sharply criticized by local and foreign anti-smoking groups for hosting the project even though the tobacco industry has been on the retreat in the US and Europe.

Philip Morris plans to ship out a third of its production to other Asean countries where the American firm expects demand to grow significantly in the long term. The Philippines is the 15th biggest consumer of cigarettes in the world. The tobacco giant is expanding its operations in the region because of the anti-tobacco backlash sweeping the United States and Europe.

Cool air when you need it.
Where you need it.
On equipment that need continuous cooling.

AIRREX
Anytime Anywhere Portable Air Conditioner



Ideal for computer rooms, telecommunications, factories, hospitals, kitchens, car repair shops, machine shops, outdoor events, welding shops, shipyards, etc.

Exclusive distributor:
ULTIMATE ENERGY SYSTEMS TRADING AND SERVICES, INC.
Suite 4-A Silvercord Tower, 803 S. Laurel cor. Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel.: (632) 723-0831 to 37 • Fax No. (632) 721-6137 • E-mail ultimate@pacific.net.ph

3 firms vying for Napocor online auction

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THREE e-commerce service providers have offered to develop an online bidding system for National Power Corp.'s various transactions.

AsiaOnline, Bayantrade.com and the SGV/Arthur Andersen consultancy have expressed interest in developing an electronic bidding and procurement system for the state-run power firm's power projects and supply needs.

Napocor president Jesus N. Alcordo said he had requested the Department of Budget and Management to approve the electronic bidding project.

Alcordo said in an earlier interview that the firm wanted to adopt an online system to speed up and ensure transparency in its bidding system.

At that time, he said, Napocor was working out a service agreement with Bayantrade.com.

However, Alcordo said "at this point, we are still shopping around for a dotcom that will help us develop a system that will fit out special requirements.

The official also said he hoped that bidding through the Internet would be started within the month, probably with the contracts for Napocor's coal and petroleum supply.

The state firm last week awarded coal supply contracts for the 1,200-megawatt Sual power plant to the winners in the bidding held recently.

Napocor also conducted through the traditional system the re-bidding of petroleum supply contracts for 128 delivery points, the earlier bidding for which were declared failures.

AsiaOnline delivered a presentation of its proposal last week before a Napocor panel while Bayantrade.com will have its turn today.

AsiaOnline has operations in eight countries in Southeast Asia. Its Philippine clients include Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications Inc., Globe Telecom, General Electric, Unilab and Siemens.

Bayantrade.com is a newly launched business-to-business e-commerce site. It is a joint venture among Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., Ayala Corp., Benpres Holdings Corp., JG Summit Holdings Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., and United Laboratories Inc.

Sycip Gorres Velayo and Co. has a worldwide computer communications and information network because of its affiliation with Arthur Andersen Consulting. SGV holds the accounts of two-thirds of the country's top 1,000 corporation, most of which are listed on the stock exchange.

Citibank tapped to refinance $130M in maturing debt

ENERGY Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the Philippine National Oil Co. has tapped Citibank NA to refinance a $130-million bridge loan that will mature on March 26.

PNOC obtained the short-term loan last year from a consortium of bank led by Citibank. It used the money to fund its 10-percent stake in the $2.5-billion Camago-Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan.

"The (loan) facility will be in place (and) Citibank will complete it," Camacho told reporters.

The secretary, however, did not say whether Citibank would actually refinance the entire $130-million loan itself or it would pool the funds from several banks.

In an earlier interview, PNOC chair Sergio F. Apostol said Citibank was offering $100 million for the agency's loan servicing requirements. Apostol also said that another bank, Lehman Brothers, was offering $200 million.

PNOC's investments in the Malampaya gas fields, made through its subsidiary Energy Development Corp., amounted to $160 million. The firm raised the remaining $30 million through internally generated cash.

Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco of the United States each have a 45-percent stake in the project.

The Malampaya gas fields can produce at least 2.6 trillion cubit feet of natural gas. Production is expected to start in the second half of this year.

Once harnessed, Malampaya will have the capacity to supply three power plants in Luzon, one of which is the unfinished 1,200-megawatt Ilijan power plant in Batangas.

The Korean Power Corp.-led $710-million Ilijan project, which is under a 25-year build-operate-transfer contract with Napocor, has been suffering delays since the Department of Finance decided to subject the contract to another review.

National Power Corp. and Kepco had been waiting for the DOF's go-ahead signal to make the crucial initial drawdown from the $475 million worth of senior loans earmarked for the project.

The Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which will provide 50 percent of the loan, requires the initial loan disbursement before its fiscal year ends this month. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Acer offers you the trendiest promo ever!

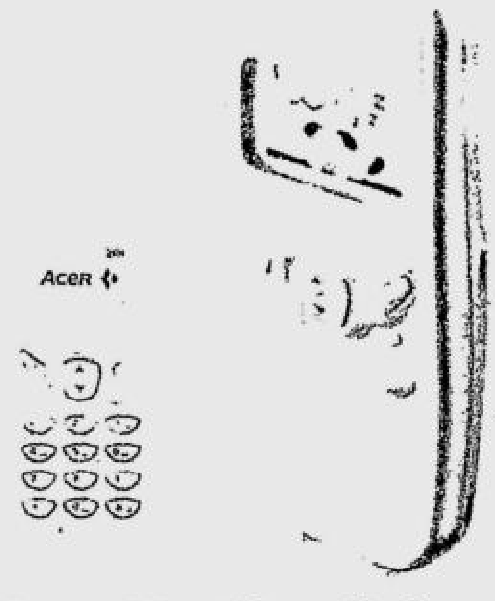
intel inside
pentium®III

Intel, the Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.
Includes Windows® Me Second Edition - the home version of the world's favorite software.
Acer Recommends Windows® 2000 Professional for Business.

Acer TravelMate 525TE / Acer TravelMate 525TXV

Acer TravelMate 604TER

Ver
Portable
ERFUL



Buy any of the following Acer TravelMate Notebook PC and Get Acer V750 Cellphone for FREE!

Acer TravelMate 525TE	Acer TravelMate 525TXV	Acer TravelMate 604TER
• Intel® Pentium® III-700Mhz	• Intel® Pentium® III-700Mhz	• Intel® Pentium® III-750MHz
• 64MB SDRAM	• 64MB SDRAM	• 128MB SDRAM
• 10GB HDD	• 10GB HDD	• 12GB HDD
• Built-in 24x CD-ROM Drive	• Built-in 8x DVD-ROM Drive	• CD-RW Drive
• 1.44MB FDD	• 1.44MB FDD	• Internal 56Kbps Modem
• Internal 56Kbps Modem	• Internal 56Kbps Modem	• 13.3"TFT LCD
• 13.3"TFT LCD	• 14.1"TFT LCD	• 10/100Mbps Ethernet
• 10/100Mbps Ethernet	• 10/100Mbps Ethernet	• Windows® 2000 Preloaded
• Windows® Me Preloaded	• Windows® Me Preloaded	• FREE - Carrying Bag
• FREE - Carrying Bag	• FREE - Carrying Bag	
P 94,900	P119,000	P 135,000

Prices Quoted are Cash Basis only.

The Best Selling and the
NUMBER ONE PC Brand in the Phils.**
Source: Int'l. Data Corp. Asia/Pacific, 2000 Report
(1995-1999 Unit Ranking)

Inquire here
Acer Hotline
302-7777 / 302-7888
Acer Website
www.acer.com.ph

ACER®
we hear you

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0317, Series 2001

Acer V750* cellphone

- Dual Band
- FR/EFR
- SIM Tool Kit
- Wide Screen 4-liner
- Built-in Modem 14.4K
- Data/Fax Capable
- Screensaver Animations
- Animated Menu
- One-Touch Vibra
- One-Touch Phone Lock
- Calendar/Organizer
- Stopwatch
- Calculator
- Games
- Connect Beep
- Template Messages
- Multiparty Call
- Whole Handset Painting
- **Talk time:** 2.4-5.1 hrs
- **Standby time:** 61-152 hrs (Lithium-ion battery)
- **Size:** 112x47x17 mm
- **Weight:** 88g

PROMO MECHANICS:

- Get one Acer V750 Cellphone FREE, for every single unit purchase of Acer TravelMate 525TE, 525TXV or 604TER.
- The FREE Acer V750 Cellphone will be given with the product purchased.
- Promo available in all Acer authorized Resellers.
- Promo is from March 19 to 31, 2001 only.

*Acer V750 is worth PhP 6,990.00

Promo runs from March 19 to 31, 2001 only

Singapore's exports slows down in Feb.

SINGAPORE—Singapore's key non-oil exports (NODX) in February grew 5.4 percent from a year ago, sharply down from 9.0 percent the previous month as waning demand for electronics took its toll, the government said Saturday.

Analysts have projected growth of between zero to 15 percent for the key barometer of the health in Singapore's trade-inspired economy.

The city-state's total trade in February fell slightly to $20.4 billion (S$36.059 billion), compared with S$36.2 billion in January, the Trade Development Board said.

"The weak growth in NODX was due to the continued weakness in domestic exports of electronics," the board said.

"In particular, domestic exports of integrated circuits—the top electronic product—declined for the second consecutive month as semiconductor prices declined further on the back of sluggish global electronics demand," it said.

Integrated circuits contracted 0.2 percent, personal computers by 18.5 percent and telecommunications equipment by 24.6 percent.

Exports to the country's biggest market, the United States, reduced, reflecting the slowdown in the US economy.

Exports of non-electronics goods, especially pharmaceuticals and specialty chemicals, grew a robust 18.7 percent year-on-year in February, compared to 16.6 percent in January, cushioning the impact of the electronics fall.

Electronic exports make up the bulk of NODX and the government has spearheaded efforts to diversify into other growth sectors such as pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said last week that the government was maintaining its projection for gross domestic product (GDP) growth this year of between 5-7 percent "for now."

"But given the clouded prospects, we are continuing to watch economic developments very closely," he said. *AFP*

PROSPERITY THREATENED

Japan deep woes worry US

WASHINGTON—Silence from most US official quarters on Japan's deepening woes masks real concern that its economic and political problems have the potential to drag US prosperity down with it, analysts say.

While the Bush administration has chosen a deliberate hands-off approach to advising the world's No. 2 economic power what it might do to get back on track, anxiety about Japan is compounded because the No. 1 economy also has rapidly slowed.

"In the past, when we were doing so well, Japan wouldn't worry us that much," said economist Sung Won Sohn of Wells Fargo Bank in Minneapolis. "But now, with our economy on the verge of recession, Japan has the capacity to push us into recession if trade flows are affected."

Japan presents a policy dilemma for the United States, one likely to come more sharply into focus when Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori visits President Bush at the White House on Monday.

While the United States badly wants Japan to reform its moribund economy and to play a bigger role in sustaining global growth, it also needs Japan as an Asian ally and as a source of investment capital to finance Americans' free-spending habits.

Mori, deeply unpopular at home where political maneuvering to replace him is intense, sees much of his country's problems originating elsewhere, specifically in the United States.

"The nation's economic recovery has been stalled," Mori said on Thursday as a new task force started work on decade-old banking problems. "Regarding the outlook, there are some worrisome factors such as the US economic slowdown."

With Mori's political future likely short-lived, there are scant expectations for next week's meeting between him and Bush. US Treasury officials declined even to talk about a possible agenda or to say whether Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill will meet Mori separately.

The only Bush administration member who has spoken out about Japan is Secretary of State Colin Powell, who said on Thursday that meetings were going on among US officials about Japan's fragile economy, which Powell said could pose a security threat to the United States.

Treasury would not even confirm that meetings about Japan had been held nor comment on whether O'Neill's attitude that US officials should avoid urging policy directions for Japan was still Treasury's guiding rule.

Powell was direct, saying Japan's problems were too important for the United States to ignore.

"We are concerned about the Japanese economy, and it has been a source of meetings with the new team," Powell told the House of Representatives budget committee. He said the United States did not have a "laissez faire" attitude toward Japan and intended to give Mori "the benefit of our thinking on this matter."

But there may not be agreement on what to suggest to Japan.

"The big problem for US policymakers is a looming global recession risk because both the United States and Japan are down," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist for Decision Economics Inc. in Boston. "When you have the two largest economies in the world, one growing at about a one-percent rate, the other one declining, the world is at risk."

Japan was able to counter past periods of weakness by exporting more automobiles and other popular products to US markets, an option less available with the US economy also barely edging ahead.

Steady crumbling in Japan's yen currency, which weakened on Friday to 22-month lows around 123 yen to the dollar, worsens already-huge US trade deficits with Asia's key economic power by making it more costly to sell American goods to Japan.

Part of the dilemma is that the United States badly needs Japanese investments, which finance most of the United States' huge current account deficits on trade that hit a record

JAPAN/ B11

Compaq to cut 5,000 jobs, lowers earnings estimate

HOUSTON—Shares of Compaq Computer Corp. fell nearly 3 percent Friday after the world's largest computer corporation warned its first-quarter results will fall short of Wall Street's expectations and it will cut 5,000 jobs—about 7 percent of its workforce.

"The intention here is to be quick and fast (with layoffs)," said Michael Winkler, executive vice president for global business units. "We know where the cuts are all going to be but we can't say yet because we haven't told our employees."

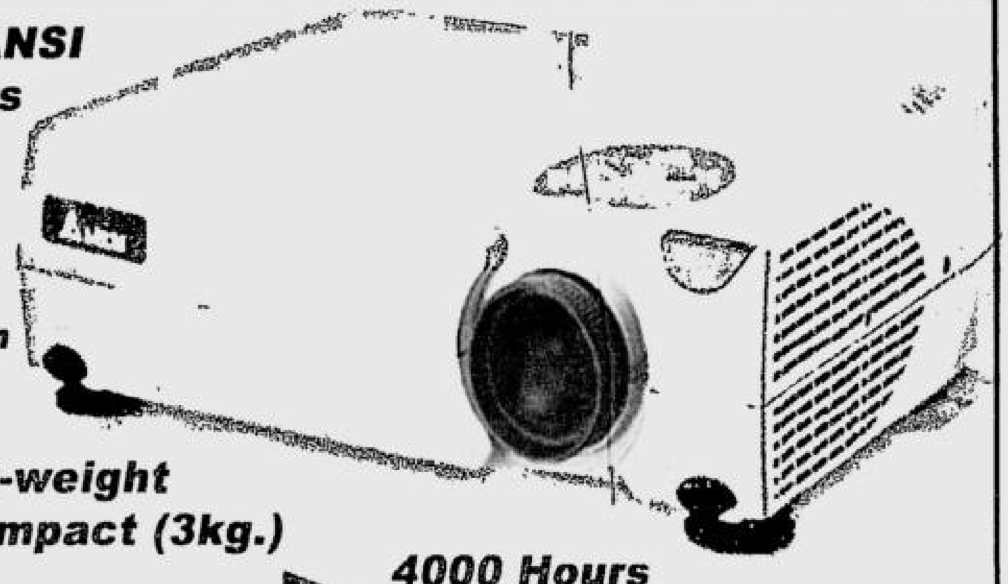
The Houston-based company will reveal where the layoffs occurred next month, Winkler said. The company did say most would come in supply chain and marketing organization changes as Compaq merges its consumer and commercial personal computing units, a restructuring expected to cost between $125 million and $150 million this quarter.

Compaq, which has 67,000 employees worldwide, also reduced its first-quarter earnings outlook to between 12 cents and 14 cents per share. Analysts surveyed by First Call/Thomson Financial were expecting 18 cents per share for the three months ended March 31.

In the year-ago quarter, Compaq earned 16 cents per share, excluding gains in its investment portfolio.

Shares of Compaq fell 50 cents, or 2.7 percent, to close at $18 Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

Chairman and chief executive officer Michael Capellas told analysts a sharp decline in North American personal computer sales was the culprit, saying that the company's other businesses are faring well domestically and worldwide. *AP*



1000 ANSI Lumens
SVGA to XGA Resolution
Light-weight & Compact (3kg.)
4000 Hours Lamplife
BRIGHTER & AFFORDABLE
DELTA
AV600 Series
multimedia projectors
FOR INQUIRIES & FREE DEMO CALL:
AVLS
All Visual & Lights Systems
Tels. 9110904 / 9110947
Fax. 9128307

For decades, business thinking focused on strategy, structure, systems. Today the best practices of excellent companies focus on sense of purpose, effective management process and employee development. The critical scarce resource in the new company will be knowledge -- composed of information, intelligence and expertise. This intellectual capital combined with the initiative, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of people give a company its much-needed competitive advantage.

For more insights, join the

6th ANNUAL
MAP MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The New Economy
Purpose, Process and People
(Going beyond strategy, structure and systems)

20 March 2001, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel

Management Association of the Philippines

For reservations, contact the MAP Secretariat
Tel: 751-1149 to 52 • Fax: 751-1154 • e-mail: mapsec@globe.com.ph

ROYAL SPONSORS: hp · The Lopez Group of Companies · Metro Pacific Corporation · Microsoft · Inquirer
MAJOR SPONSORS: Globe Telecom · philbx · SAP
ASSOCIATE SPONSORS: IBM · Sun

EXHIBITORS: ● Center for Leadership and Change ● Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. ● Hewlett-Packard Philippines ● Lopez Group of Companies ● Microsoft ● Philippine Daily Inquirer

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

Baguio City
Mr. Avelino Nonog
Avel and Tita Newsstand, #12 Dahlia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. Nos (074) 442-6889/443-4367
Mr. Victor Navarro
Times City News Agency, #9 Mt. Province Alley,
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center, Baguio City
Tel. Nos (074) 443-4533/445-3175/443-4381
Mr. Rey Elatan
Cora's News Agency, #58 Magnolia Alley,
Maharlika Livelihood Center,
Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 442-8176
Mr. Juanito Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 444-6526, (074) 304-2611
Cellphone No. (0918) 280-0175
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayril
RVC Newstand, 7 P. Burgos Street, Batanagas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-4426
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 46 D. Silang Street,
Batangas City
Tel. Nos. (043) 723-0616/(043) 980-8942
Bulacan
Mr. Manolo Iñigo
Fausta Village, Tabing-Ilog, Marilao, Bulacan
Telefax (044) 933-1214, EasyCall 141-267284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal L., Tancan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No. (044) 766-1280
Office : Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center, 2nd Floor BMG Building
Barrera St., Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capulo
#7 Santander Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-0823, E-mail: rucap@mozcom.com
City Supermart
Sanciangco Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-1149
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#637 Zuniga Street, Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel. No. (044) 463-2002

Nueva Vizcaya
Himmler John L. Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano, Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax No. (078) 3267172
Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabaero
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II
Corner St. Peter and St. Jude Streets
St. Jude Village, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel. Nos (045) 963-3718/(0918) 505-6249
Gopiao Building, Dolores Homesite
McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga
Tel (045) 961-3767, e-mail. chersum@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
243 Rizal Street, Calasiao, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-0505/522-6550
Mr. Mario Novales
Marigold Bookstore
AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 522-2328, Fax No. (075) 522-0079
Mr. Herminio Romero
Romero's Trading
Rizal Street, Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan
Tel. No. (075) 523-5504/523-5872
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor
Leonor's Merrimart
E. Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. Nos. (048)434-2200/433-2531/433-2551
Mr. Tomas Choy Tan
40 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel. No. (048) 433-2892, Cell No. (0918) 2332737
Tuguegarao
Mr. Richmont Pobre
Agcamag Newsstand, Stall#7 Tuguegarao Central Market
Gomez Street, Tuguegarao, Cagayan
Tel. No. (078) 844-1160/844-0364
E-mail: pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erlle I. Duduaco c/o E.D. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 982-0653, Cell No. (0917) 448-0551
Fax No. (045) 982-1765

Laguna
Mr. Fernando B. Hernandez
Residence: #10 Marathon Street
Manquita Pueblo, Dita, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel.Nos.(049)531-2776/(049)837-3623/(0912)818-3559
Store: #250 J.P. Rizal Street, Cabuyao, Laguna
Tel. No. (049) 531-4629
Ms. Susan D. Baybay
MSC Data Exchange Co.
55 Paseo de Escudero, San Pablo City
Tel. No. (049) 562-4597, Fax No. (049) 562-1444
Email: sbaybay@msc.edu.ph
Isabela
Ms. Alice Pua Uy
Lola's Store Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 652-2279
Ms. Catalina Javier
Fredin News and Magazine Agency
#34 Provincial Road, Centro East, Santiago City
Tel. No. (078) 682-8652/682-3620
E-mail: fredeline@mozcom.com
Legaspi City
Ms. Irene Solmirano
Brgy. 34 Oro Site Legaspi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-1274/480-8099
Cathy P. Sendin
SM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue, Legaspi City
Tel. No. (052) 214-3043/214-3648/820-3748
Lipa City
Ms. Matilde Maniego c/o Ms. Rose Perce
Lifelines Bookstore, Pacia Building, T.M. Kalaw St.
(near Lipa Bank), 9217 Lipa City
Tel. No.: (043) 7566726/7561330
Email: nvrinsur@ala-eh.net
Naga City
Mr. Ramon S. Sia
RS Newspaper and Magazine Headquarters
Ground Floor Supermarket, General Luna Street,
Naga City, Tel. No. (054) 473-8711

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Reaching Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Japan bank to further ease monetary policy

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan is expected to further relax its monetary policy to bolster Japan's sagging economy.

The BOJ is considering embarking on a monetary policy easing by setting a target of 10-20 percent growth in the volume of reserves held at the central bank, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper said on Saturday.

The BOJ's Policy Board meets today amid expectations of a further relaxation following two interest rate cuts in February, to bolster Japan's sagging economy.

The Yomiuri said the reserves target, if adopted, would be accompanied by a cut in the official discount rate, now at 0.25 percent, in order to reduce the risk of lurches in money market rates that a quantitative target could induce.

Setting a goal for reserves or another monetary aggregate would be a sea change in the bank's policy, which currently targets the price of money—interest rates—rather than the volume.

Accordingly, if the BOJ were to aim for a quantity of reserves, the current target interest rate—0.15 percent for the overnight call money rate—would become practically meaningless, the Yomiuri's sources said.

As a result, they said the BOJ Policy Board would be unlikely to reinstate an explicit policy of zero interest rates.

However, call money rates would drop closer to zero because of the abundant liquidity that the central bank would supply.

"Therefore, effects tantamount to a return to the near-zero interest rate policy can be expected, explained the sources," the Yomiuri said.

The article follows a report by Jiji news agency on Thursday that said the BOJ was considering quantitative easing.

Free money

The BOJ, to the fury of politicians, abandoned its 18-month experiment with free money last August when it raised the overnight rate to 0.25 percent.

It started to backtrack last month in the face of a sudden deterioration in the economy, sliding stock prices and a hope that easier monetary policy would encourage the write-off of bad loans that are hobbling the banking system.

Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami has stoutly opposed either a return to zero interest rates or a quantitative easing.

But with pressure mounting on the bank both from politicians at home and Japan's allies abroad, the central bank chief has sent clear signals in the past week that he is relenting and financial markets confidently expect a monetary easing on Monday.

A member of the central bank's policy board told Reuters last weekend that the BOJ was already discussing a return to zero interest rates to help offset deflationary pressure stemming from debt write-offs and structural reforms.

Quantitative easing works by boosting the monetary base, the basic building block of all money and credit.

Some economists question whether the BOJ could indeed induce monetary base growth because reserves, or current deposits, at the central bank account for only about 5 percent of Japan's monetary base. Cash and notes in circulation make up the rest.

Opening the window

Another theoretical objection to quantitative easing is that it could increase the volatility of interest rates.

But the BOJ on Friday opened a stand-by lending window, which allows banks to borrow at will at the discount rate, specifically to put a lid on money market rates and so allay fears of a funding crunch over the end of the financial year on March 31.

The BOJ said on Friday that 151 financial institutions had registered to use the lending facility but that it had lent only about 100 million yen ($818,500) through it on Friday.

BOJ officials have also argued against quantitative easing on the grounds that the traditional relationship between monetary aggregates and economic growth and prices have broken down since the early 1990s as banks' capital position has weakened.

According to this line of thought, no amount of liquidity will revive the economy because Japan's structural ills have frayed the transmission belt by which central bank money creation leads to growth in credit and, eventually, output and incomes.

Thus bank lending has fallen for 38 months in a row even though the BOJ is already providing surplus funds amounting to one trillion yen ($8.19 billion) per day to the banking sector.

The solution, these officials say, is radical financial and corporate restructuring—not even more and cheaper money.

To achieve the reserves target, the Yomiuri said the BOJ believes the improved operational methods it adopted last month to inject funds into the money market will be sufficient.

These included renewed purchases of short-term government bonds but not the buying of long-term paper as demanded by some members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

If the BOJ does opt for quantitative easing, it will be a victory for Policy Board member Nobuyuki Nakahara, who has hitherto been a lone voice calling for such a step.

He has proposed a target of 15 percent year-on-year growth of the monetary base to generate inflation of 0.5 to 2.0 percent and so reverse a two-year fall in prices that even Hayami admits is of growing concern as the economy weakens. *Reuters*

ADB to lend $1.2B a year to Indonesia

THE ASIAN Development Bank said Saturday it was willing to extend annual loans of between $600 million and $1.2 billion to Indonesia on condition progress is made in economic and political reforms.

Indonesia will obtain the higher end of the credit range if it takes appropriate measures to improve macroeconomic stability, reduce poverty and improve implementation of ADB projects, the bank said.

It should also move effectively to give local governments real decision-making capability, the bank said.

Jan van Heeswijk, head of the Manila-based bank's mission in Indonesia, said the ADB would be "flexible and responsive" to political and economic changes in the country and support policy reforms over the next three years.

"However, without improved governance, ADB's programs will not have a sustainable impact on poverty," he said.

Indonesia was among the hardest hit by the Asian financial crisis in 1997 when about 15 million Indonesians fell below the poverty line, the bank said.

The country was borrowing about $11.2 billion annually from the ADB before the financial turmoil. Loans from the bank rose to $1.8 billion in 1998 and $1.5 billion in 1999.

Indonesia has so far borrowed about $17.7 billion for development projects from the ADB. *AP*

Taiwan Internet users up to 10M

SAN FRANCISCO—Taiwan is now the third largest Internet market in the Asia-Pacific region.

Some 55 percent of Taiwanese households have a personal computer and 43 percent of households have access to the Internet, according to a first study of Taiwan Internet use by Nielsen//NetRatings, a New York-based Internet ratings company.

The study showed that Taiwan has 10 million Internet users, of which 38 percent were active in January.

"The Internet is a global medium that transcends country boundaries, therefore we need to understand the Taiwan market in the regional and global context," said Nielsen//NetRatings executive Forrest Didier. "It is particularly important because Taiwan is a major trading country." Taiwan ranks behind Japan and South Korea as a "key" Internet market, Nielsen//NetRatings found.

In January, the average Taiwan Internet user spent slightly fewer than seven hours online during 12 visits to the Internet during which the average user accessed 18 unique websites and downloaded 737 pages.

The average time spent online was 36 minutes.

"The usage pattern shows the momentum of growth in Asia," Didier said, "We can see the numbers compare very favorably with those in more advanced Internet economies like the US and UK."

Thirty-one percent of Taiwan Internet users made purchases on the Internet in the fourth quarter, compared to 36 percent of visitors from Hong Kong and 48 percent of users in South Korea. *AFP*

Japan deep woes worry US

(From page B10)

$435.4 billion last year.

Any sign that Japanese investors were losing their appetite for US Treasury securities and for investment in stocks, bonds and branch-plant operations would be a flashing red light for American policymakers.

Japan effectively lends money to the United States through such purchases, necessary since Americans save little or nothing.

Sinai said the United States should not hesitate to give Japan advice, "as colleagues, not as critics." But he added, using a pool-hall term to describe a difficult situation: "The problem is that they've tried nearly everything, nothing is working, and now the country is really behind the eight-ball."

Sinai said he could only suggest that Japan needs to keep easing interest rates, already at nearly zero, to keep adding liquidity to its banking system and to push its banks to lend to private-sector borrowers, coupling it with steep tax cuts.

"Ultimately, the best thing the United States can do is very, very aggressive action to revive the US economy," Sinai said, putting more money in consumers' hands that means a more buoyant market for Japanese-made cars and other goods.

"That means more Fed action, likely more aggressive action than they have been talking about so far, and speeding up the Bush tax cuts which are really very small this year in relation to the total economy," he said. *Reuters*

DUBAI SHOPPING FESTIVAL
MARCH 2001
مهرجات دبي للتسوق
مارس

Dubai in one sparkling package.
Starting from just US $33.

To celebrate this year's Shopping Festival, Emirates gives you Dubai in one sparkling package - for as little as $33 a night!* Choose from a range of no less than 18 fine hotels, including three beach resorts for lovers of surf and sand. No matter which hotel you choose, your 3-night package includes buffet breakfast, and transfers between Dubai International Airport and your hotel (both arriving and departing). Emirates Dubai Shopping Festival holiday packages - they're enough to bring a sparkle to anyone's eye! Find out more at www,emirates-dsf.com today!

Emirates

BE GOOD TO YOURSELF. FLY EMIRATES.

*PER PERSON, PER NIGHT, SHARING. FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY OR EMIRATES ON 811 5278. www.emirates.com

AS STOCKS TUMBLE

US Federal Reserve has room for more cuts

WASHINGTON—The latest snapshots of economic activity Friday gave Federal Reserve policymakers more reasons to cut interest rates aggressively at their meeting on Tuesday to revive a slumbering economy. Wholesale prices were almost flat in February, and factory production remained in free-fall.

With inflation posing little current risk to the economy, analysts say, the Fed has plenty of room to lower interest rates again. Not only should that give a boost to the overall economy, which is mired in a slowdown, it also should help manufacturing, they say. That sector is bearing the brunt of the economy's weakness, so much so that many believe it is in recession.

"The rot is spreading in manufacturing," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard and Poor's DRI. "The economy just doesn't seem to be moving."

On Wall Street, stocks tumbled as the anemic industrial production report and profit warnings from major tech companies stoked investors' anxiety over the weak economy. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 207.87 points to close at 9,823.41. That left the index with its worst-ever weekly point drop of 821.21.

Wyss and some other economists said they were betting that the Fed would cut interest rates by a bold three-quarters of a percentage point this week given the latest reading on inflation and industrial activity as well as the stock market's problems.

"I'd say there is a 60-percent probability of a three-quarter point reduction on Tuesday primarily because of the low rate of underlying inflation, the weakness in the factory sector and the negative feedback that could come from a continued slide in the stock market," said Lynn Reaser, chief economist at Banc of America Capital Management.

The tame inflation news came in a Labor Department report that showed the department's producer price index, which measures inflation pressures before they reach store shelves, edged up a tiny 0.1 percent in February despite higher prices for natural gas and other energy products.

Excluding volatile energy and food prices, which can swing widely from month to month, wholesale prices fell by 0.3 percent last month, the best showing since August 1993.

But in further evidence of the faltering economy, production at US factories, mines and utilities plunged a bigger-than-expected 0.6 percent, the fifth straight monthly decline, the Federal Reserve said. The weakness was broad-based.

"The bad news for the industrial side of the economy got even worse," said David Orr, First Union's chief economist.

Output at gas and electric utilities decreased by 2.3 percent, which economists attributed to mild weather and conservation efforts by homeowners and others who were shocked by huge bills. Manufacturing production declined by 0.4 percent and mining output by 0.5 percent.

Operating capacity, meanwhile, fell to 79.4 percent in February as companies cut back production and shed workers due to sagging demand. It was the lowest reading since February 1992.

Industrial production also was weaker in January than the Fed previously thought. Output fell 0.6 percent, according to revised figures, double the 0.3-percent drop originally reported.

The Federal Reserve slashed interest rates twice in January, totaling a full percentage point, trying to stave off recession. One reason cited by Fed policymakers for being able to act so aggressively was that inflation—outside the burst in energy prices—had remained in check.

Wholesale prices were much more subdued in February after skyrocketing energy prices shot them 1.1 percent higher in January, the biggest jump in a decade.

Energy prices didn't go up so much last month, rising 1.4 percent compared with a 3.8 percent January increase. The trend of rising energy costs reflects production limits and strong demand.

Natural gas used in homes rose 3.5 percent in February, but that was an improvement over the record 11.3-percent increase in January. After peaking in December, natural gas prices had eased, and economists expected prices would continue to moderate or fall in coming months.

Falling prices for gasoline and heating oil helped temper rising prices for liquefied petroleum gas, such as propane, and residential electric power.

Food prices also moderated in February, rising 0.6 percent, down from a 0.8-percent increase. Higher prices for pork, chicken, fish and vegetables swamped falling prices for dairy products and fruits.

Car prices, meanwhile, fell 1.5 percent, the biggest decrease since July 1997, and truck prices declined 3.6 percent, the largest drop since October 1982. Economists said the lower prices reflected discounting and other incentives by manufacturers and dealers.

One area of the economy that has held up well during the slowdown has been housing. In another report, housing construction, after rising 4.8 percent in January, dipped by a smaller-than-expected 0.4 percent in February to an annual rate of 1.65 million units. Even with the decrease, the level of activity remained healthy.

"The reality of the economy is not that bad outside manufacturing. But the perception is the sky is falling in part because of the stock market," said Wells Fargo's chief economist Sung Won Sohn, who expects a three-quarter-point cut. "The stock market is the canary in the coal mine, and the canary is gasping for air." *AP*

Stocks hit new lows; no relief in sight

NEW YORK—Stocks capped a dismal week on Wall Street with a big slide on Friday that sent major gauges to their lowest levels in more than two years, as an unexpected rise in consumer sentiment dampened hopes of a deep interest rate cut to boost the cooling US economy.

"People are looking for ammunition for an aggressive Fed rate cut. It's not there," said Christopher Low, chief economist at First Tennessee Capital Markets.

The market was severely bloodied last week as Japan's troubled banking sector, a sagging US economy and soft corporate profits sparked a furious sell-off that pushed the Dow below 10,000 points for the first time since last October.

The week's slump destroyed some $900 billion of investor wealth and now has wiped out a whopping $4.8 trillion since March 24 last year, as measured by the closing high of the Wilshire 5000 index, which comprises most US stocks.

The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 49.85 points, or 2.57 percent, to 1,890.86. The index, which dropped 7.9 percent for the week, scraped a low unseen since November 1998.

The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average plunged 207.87 points, or 2.07 percent, to 9,823.41, as most of its 30-component stocks fell. The index was down 7.7 percent last week, at a one-year low.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell 23.17 points, or 1.97 percent, to 1,150.39, hitting its lowest level since mid-December 1998 and down 6.7 percent for the week.

Investors were again hit by a fresh salvo of corporate profit warnings. Tech heavyweights Compaq Computer Corp., the world's No. 1 personal computer maker, and Oracle Corp., the No. 2 software maker, forecast disappointing earnings in the economic downturn. Smaller tech companies also issued warnings, including computer services supplier Computer Sciences Corp.

"This is the everyday chatter almost on the Street: another big name, another big disappointment," said Joseph Barthel, chief investment strategist at brokerage Fahnestock & Co. in New York. "It really doesn't permit you to think that the second, third or fourth quarters are going to be better than what we just experienced."

US consumer sentiment edged up unexpectedly in March after three months of sharp declines. The rise reined in market hopes for a steep cut of three-quarters of a percentage point, or 75-basis points in interest rates by the Federal Reserve at its policy-setting meeting that begins on Tuesday.

"The concern here is the possibility that we are looking at a much deeper economic decline, and maybe a lot more is needed from the Fed," said Barthel.

The University of Michigan's closely watched preliminary consumer sentiment index, which gives an early read on the attitudes of consumers in the first weeks of the month, rose to 91.8 from 90.6 in February. Economists had expected the index to fall to 89.5.

Jittery investors, demoralized by their stock market losses, yanked $6.7 billion out of US stock funds in February and likely would pull out more in March, fund flow tracker Trim Tabs estimated. If that happens, it will be the industry's worst two-month period since 1990.

A narrow majority of Wall Street's top bond dealers predict the Fed will cut key rates by half a percentage point, or 50 basis points, next week even though markets are praying for a bigger move, according to a new Reuters poll.

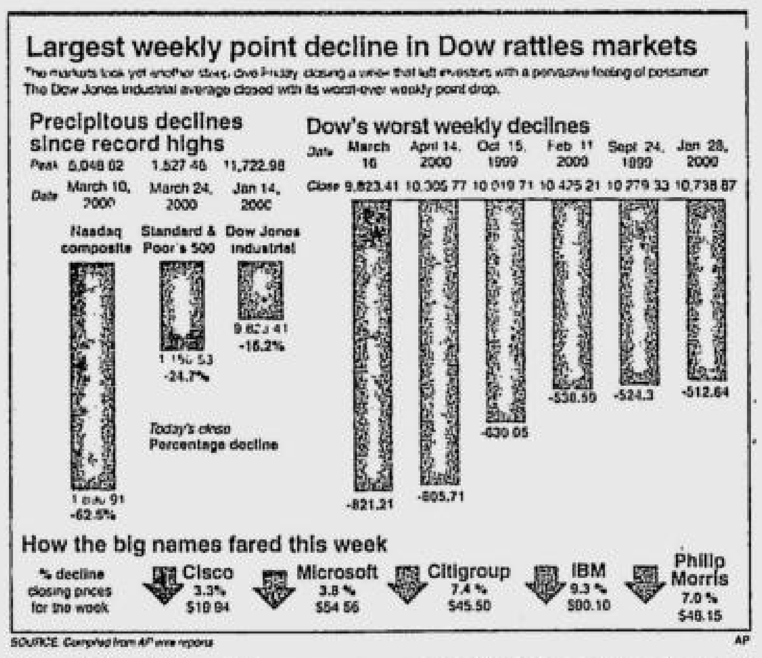
"The sentiment data kind of put a damper on things," said Alan Skrainka, chief market strategist, Edward Jones, St. Louis. "Fed Chair Alan Greenspan has been talking about watching consumer sentiment carefully, and the fact that it held up so well is discouraging people from thinking we will get 75 basis points."

Key inflation numbers before the opening bell had lifted hopes for a 75-basis-point cut. Wholesale prices barely rose in February, the government said in a report that signaled inflation was contained and could give Federal Reserve policymakers comfort as they weigh rate cuts on Tuesday.

Another set of data early on Friday showed output by US industrial firms slumped in February, which had also given investors more hope of a deep rate cut.

"It's the good news/bad news scenario," said Peter Coolidge, managing director of equity trading at Brean Murray & Co. "We need this consumer confidence to start getting to a bottom in this economic slowdown, but the bad news is that in the short term it would make the Fed more likely to cut less than more." *Reuters*

TRADERS, from left, Steve French, Nick Ginnopolous and Andres Stavros have different reactions as trading closes in the Nasdaq 100 Futures trading pit in Chicago. The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index fell 49.85 points, or 2.57 percent, to 1,890.86. The index, which dropped 7.9 percent for the week, scraped a low unseen since November 1998. AP



SOURCE: Compiled from AP wire reports

Ex-Gillette CEO to get $8-M pay

BOSTON—Gillette Co.'s former chair and chief executive, Michael Hawley, will receive $8.7 million in compensation over two years following his departure from the company last year.

The compensation package for the 37-year employee, who served only 18 months in the company's top job before his forced ouster, was detailed in proxy statements the company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission Thursday.

The filings also indicate that the company's three-year contract with Hawley's successor, James Kilts, guarantees Kilts at least $2 million in cash this year on top of a $250,000 signing bonus.

Kilts also got options to buy 2 million Gillette shares for $34.16 per share, worth about $24 million. Gillette also offered to sell Kilts 2 million additional options over the next three years. He can hold the shares for up to 10 years if Gillette is purchased and he loses his job.

Company president and chief operating officer Edward DeGraan, who headed the company between Hawley's departure and Kilts' hiring, was paid $1.4 million in 2000.

He could receive a $500,000 bonus if he remains president through January of 2002, and got options for 180,000 Gillette shares valued at about $1.9 million.

During Hawley's brief tenure at the helm of the shaving products giant, Gillette stock fell from more than $50 per share to less than $30 per share.

Shares of Gillette were down 37 cents to close at $30.68 Friday on the New York Stock Exchange.

In December, Gillette announced it planned to eliminate 2,700 jobs, or about 8 percent of its workforce, and close eight factories and 13 distribution centers as part of a plan to boost its profit growth.

Gillette makes and sells a wide range of products but is best known for its razors and toiletry products for both men and women. The company also produces alkaline batteries, hair products, toothbrushes and small household appliances. It has 54 manufacturing facilities in 20 countries and distributes products in over 200 countries and territories.

AP

Starbucks to serve only GMO-free milk

SEATTLE—Starbucks Coffee Co. has begun efforts to serve only milk free of genetically modified ingredients such as bovine growth hormone, the company president has announced.

The Food and Drug Administration has said milk containing bovine growth hormone is safe for human consumption.

But the company was more concerned about public perception than health concerns, said Orin Smith, Starbucks' president and chief executive.

"If I've got 10 percent of my customer base that's concerned about this issue, I'm concerned," Smith said in an interview late Friday.

Starbucks, a coffee and specialty drink maker, is one of the largest milk users in the United States, with 2,758 stores nationwide.

Six groups wrote a letter to Smith last month demanding that the company take all genetically modified organisms out of its food ingredients.

Ronnie Cummins, campaign director for the Organic Consumers Association, said Starbucks was targeted because it uses so much milk in its products and the groups are confident Starbucks customers are concerned enough to respond to their campaign.

Activists still planned to target the company Tuesday, the day of the Seattle-based coffee maker's annual shareholders meeting.

Regarding Starbucks' announcement, Cummins said, "It sounds like a good first step. I'd love to see that in writing."

He said the organization would continue to fight for all Starbucks products to be GMO-free and organic.

"I think their customers are going to demand it, and if they don't do what we're asking them to do, they're going to suffer in terms of their reputation and eventually in terms of their bottom line," Cummins said.

Bovine growth hormone, also known by the scientific name of *Recombinant bovine somatotropin*, is injected in cows to increase the amount of milk they produce. *AP*

Argentina seeks savings to end 'inertia'

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina's government on Friday announced a $4.45-billion austerity plan for 2001-2002 to win back confidence in its battered economy with tough new minister Ricardo Lopez Murphy at the helm.

Biting the bullet on profligate government spending in a hostile political environment, President Fernando de la Rua's economic team slashed public spending for the third time since he came to power 15 months ago, took cash away from provinces and universities and eliminated tax exemptions for the media.

"We need measures to reduce spending and the deficit and get over this emergency," said De la Rua in a televised speech to the nation. "I ask you to assume this in solidarity and not create adverse conditions that could be serious.

"This is essential in order to get over this inertia, win back credit, create jobs, help strengthen the interior of the country and restart growth."

Lopez Murphy, a Chicago-trained economist with a yen for cost-cutting, said in a prepared speech that his plan must get quick approval if credibility is to be restored. His predecessor, Jose Luis Machinea, resigned on March 2 due to lack of support.

"The progress of the economy depends on the immediate approval of this proposal," read his speech, which started off humanely by addressing, "the many Argentines who are desperate and skeptical."

His recipe for kick-starting an economy that has not seen growth for 32 months—with 14.7 percent unemployment, poverty levels of 30 percent and labor unions planning a fourth strike against the center-left Alliance government—centered on what he called, "immediate correction of the fiscal situation."

To remedy overspending that overshot first-quarter goals agreed with the International Monetary Fund by almost $740 million, he plans savings of $1.962 billion in 2001 and $2.485 billion in 2002 and reforms to save $3.5 billion more in 2003.

Economists said the measures, eagerly awaited in a climate of feverish speculation since Lopez Murphy got the job 12 days ago, were as expected but their success depended on support from within the fragile Alliance and a hostile Congress.

The fragility of his Alliance, a coalition of his centrist Radicals and the leftist Frepaso of Carlos Alvarez, who quit as his vice president last year, is a big worry for financial markets that doubt the ability of Latin America's third economy and biggest sovereign borrower to pay back its debt.

This pushed the IMF to lead a $40-billion credit for Argentina in December, but that was soon undercut by a new emerging market crisis from Turkey.

Lopez Murphy has repeatedly warned he cannot succeed without political support, which may be tough with the Frepaso and opposition Peronists stepping up criticisms of economic policy ahead of midterm elections in Congress near yearend.

But economists welcomed the fact most of the measures would be implemented by decree, meaning Congress can only try to block them once they are already in place.

"The measures seem a little stronger than was expected. It's positive that they can't be rejected by Congress," said Pedro Rabasa, chief economist for local Scotiabank Quilmes.

"What will be important will be the way the government presents the measures to the market to create an image of support and rebuild a climate for investment and growth," said Rafael Ber, economic analyst for Argentine Research.

But labor unions had already anticipated their opposition.

"These cutbacks will deepen the recession and take us into an economic depression," said the head of the main CGT union, Rodolfo Daer, whose members vote next week on a new strike.

Argentine bonds swung wildly Friday on speculation the cutbacks would not be tough enough for their taste and the Buenos Aires stock market closed 1.9 percent lower. *Reuters*

AYALA PLANS

A subsidiary of the Bank of the Philippine Islands

BPI 150

Millennium Race to the Top:

Ayala Plans honors its outstanding business partners

One of the country's leading pre-need companies will hold its Annual Sales Convention tonight at the Manila Hotel where top achievers will be given recognition for a job well done.

A company may have an impeccable reputation, vast financial resources, the latest technology and a high-tech office to boot. But for any organization to actually thrive, it must rely on and give recognition to the skills and efforts of its people. Without the right people, long-term success cannot be possibly attained.

Completely aware of this, Ayala Plans, one of the country's leading pre-need companies, will hold its Annual Sales Convention tonight at the Manila Hotel, where top achievers will be given the recognition they so richly deserve for a job well done. Aside from this, the winners will enjoy an Asian city tour on March 20 to 23 where one batch will relish the sights and sounds of Singapore while the other batch will proceed to exotic Bangkok.

BIGAY TODO!
Move as One in 2001

Ayala Plans sales leaders and personnel proclaim their battle cry for the year, "Bigay Todo! Move as one in 2001", during the kick-off conference in Punta Baluarte, Calatagan, Batangas.

Client satisfaction is the way to go

"A winner never quits and a quitter never wins." Guided by this simple philosophy, Roselyn H. Yap of the Zamboanga Regional Office emerged as the Top Sales Counselor. "This is just unspeakable joy," she says. "I have uttered so many words to sell Ayala Plans but right now, I can't find the words that best describe this feeling." A Commerce graduate of Notre Dame University in Cotabato, Yap joined Ayala Plans in 1999 as a sales counselor. She says her success relies on her dedication and commitment to attain her goals, as well as client satisfaction, one that is based on friendship and nurtured with honesty.

The North Manila Sales Division call on good vibes to bring in the good times during the 2001 National Kickoff Conference.

"I believe one can never go wrong with these things in mind," she says. It also helped that Yap is one person who's well known for her tenacity and unrelenting perseverance and efficiency. Inspired by God, her family and Ayala Plans, Yap believes that simply focusing on one's target and not getting distracted by other activities will ultimately lead to success.

Selling by heart

For Viktorina L. Tan from the Lucena Regional Office, her self-belief enabled her to become this year's Top District Manager. "Nobody but myself inspired me to excel."

"I really believe that I have what it takes to become successful. Besides, no one else will help me achieve my dreams, goals and aspirations but myself," says this self-assured lady.

A Chemistry graduate of Adamson University, Tan joined Ayala Plans in 1998 as a District Manager and has since been promoted to Area Manager. Being the Top District Manager, Tan had this to say, "I am happy and thankful. It really feels great to get this award, which isn't only financially rewarding but also self-gratifying."

Her key to success? "It's just a matter of selling by heart," she enthuses. "I truly believe in the products of Ayala Plans and if you love your products, which I do, then you are ready to stand behind it and give your unconditional guarantee to your clients." She adds, "Advertising and networking are big plusses because people will know more about you and your services." She encourages everyone to do their best by saying, "Everybody can be a winner. Just believe in yourself, keep your goals in sight and have a great and positive attitude to live by."

The South Manila Sales Division prove they know a thing or two about dancing -- and sales of course!

A recruiter of dreamers

Rodolfo O. Torres of the Zamboanga Regional Office is this year's Top Area Manager. A 52-year-old father of two, Torres is a Commerce graduate of the Ateneo de Zamboanga who believes that being confident and having faith gives one the results that they want. "It's great that I have the inspiration of my wife, my family, relatives and friends. They constantly motivate me to excel in whatever I do," he says. His successful marketing strategy relies on the recruitment of quality sales counselors, as well as dreamers that's why his message to those who aspire to become like him is, "Make hay while the sun is shining."

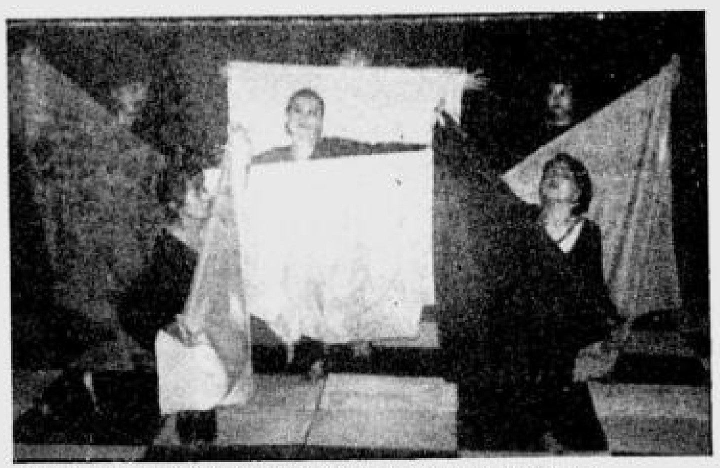
God and family keeps this man going

The Rookie Regional Sales Manager award goes to Germiniano C. Alcala, Jr. of the Butuan Regional Sales Office. "I am happy with the award because I am reaping what I sowed last year," he says. A deeply religious person, Alcala adds none of his success would have been possible, "If not for the Lord."

For him, manpower build up is the key to success. "It may sound simple but practicing it is very difficult because it entails so much time, effort, dedication and commitment," he says.

"The production of people with a heart for service is the initial step towards building the team and motivating my people in creating and sustaining good performance helps create that winning team. Always think of what you can do for your team and not what they can do for you."

This Accounting graduate of the Holy Cross of Davao College counts on God and his family as his sources of inspiration. "I always depend on God's grace to carry me through the day as well as the love, understanding and support of my family. I don't think I would even be half as successful without them."



North Luzon & Composite Sales Division do a dance performance to bolster sales numbers.

The captain of Zamboanga's "Dream Team"

"People who want milk should not sit in the field hoping the cow will back up to them." With this premise, the Top Regional Office award goes to the Zamboanga Regional Office, manned by Neri Francisco, Jr. Francisco joined Ayala Plans in 1998 as the Zamboanga RO Regional Manager. This Business Administration and Management graduate of the Ateneo de Zamboanga was recently promoted this January as the Head for South Manila's Sales Division.

South Luzon Sales Division impressed the crowd with their ethnic number.

Francisco is ecstatic to head Ayala Plans' Top Regional Office and he is first to admit that being on top isn't an easy thing to do especially with the peace and order problem experienced by the province last year. But he is thankful that he has been gifted with what he calls the "Dream Team" of Zamboanga. "I'm greatly honored that most of the awardees this year hail from Zamboanga," he says.

Francisco's marketing success relies on a simple guiding pattern. "To achieve a common goal, we do continuous recruitment, launch attractive sales drives and establish guiding patterns to meet our monthly goals." He adds that a good way to find your own concept of success is to simply analyze your failures. "Discover why you failed in given situations and from there, find the solutions until you eventually establish a success pattern," he says.

These awardees prove that a company's tremendous success truly banks on its people and Ayala Plans is quick to acknowledge this fact by constantly providing them with numerous career advancement opportunities, along with innovative products to make them and ultimately the company, as the industry's best.

Hee-haw cowboys! The Visayas Sales Division round up everyone for an evening of fun.

MESSAGES

The transformation of Ayala Plans from a fledgling company six years ago to one of the industry's major players today can be attributed to our business partners. These people tirelessly and selflessly devoted their time and efforts to market Ayala Plans' innovative products. It is but appropriate that they be given the honor they truly deserve.

Over the years, our business partners have shown a continuous desire to be the best in the business. And with our recent merger with the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), Ayala Plans is even better equipped to provide our business partners with a profusion of opportunities for career advancement that will nurture their encouraging drive toward achieving greater success in the future.

Congratulations to all our awardees.

A. L. Salcedo Jr.
Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr.
Ayala INSCOS President

Ayala Plans has indeed come a long way from being the startup company that it was six years ago. Today, Ayala Plans boasts of significant collection, profit and trust fund figures brought about by the company's aggressive marketing campaigns and the trust, stability and integrity that comes with the Ayala name.

However, these would not have been possible if not for the astonishing efforts of our top business partners whom we are honoring tonight. Their drive toward making Ayala Plans' products available to a wide number of Filipinos undoubtedly makes the company the leader that it is today and I trust that this development will continue for many more years.

Congratulations to all of the awardees.

Romulo F. Alajor
General Manager
Ayala Plans

Congratulations to all of our awardees!

A company's success relies heavily on its human resources. People who have the skills and unrelenting dedication to constantly deliver the best services contribute a great deal to any organization. On being the company that it is today, Ayala Plans clearly proves that it has this resource in abundance. And tonight, the company recognizes their exceptional performance via the Annual Sales Convention.

These individuals have consistently manifested their intense desire toward making Ayala Plans one of the country's leading pre-need companies, by making Ayala Plans' quality pension and education products available to a vast majority of Filipinos. With our business partners' zeal to excel, Ayala Plans is undoubtedly poised to achieve greater success in years to come.

Vicente Z. Ruperto
Assistant Vice President
& Group Head
Ayala Plans

3 things to consider before you buy an education or pension plan:

1. Trust
2. Trust
3. Trust

AYALA Plans, a member of the Ayala Group of Companies, is committed to giving the Filipino family the best education and pension plans. With Ayala Plans, you can enjoy the peace of mind that we will be around to deliver on all our promises.

In Metro Manila, call AYALA PLANS at **753-7777** so that we can immediately send a Sales Counselor to visit you. Or call any of our local branches nearest you!

AYALA PLANS

Trust earned through the years.

Ayala Life Building, 6786 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. no. 753-7777 • Fax: 892-5869
email: service@ayalaplans.com.ph

Ayala Plans after six years

The fledgling company quickly transformed from a struggling new enterprise to a confident pre-need company worthy of the Ayala name.

It's very amusing how a simple question can lead to grand results. Consider this: "How come we don't have a pre-need company yet?" This query was posed by then Ayala Life President Manuel Q. Bengson (now Ayala Corporation Treasurer). This was the impetus for the establishment of Ayala Plans, Inc., one of the country's largest pre-need companies.

Through its initial years, the fledgling company quickly transformed from a struggling new enterprise to a confident pre-need company worthy of the Ayala name. Founded on November 23, 1994 with an initial paid-up capitalization of P25 million, Ayala Plans emerged from the pages of a feasibility study into the corporate world, changing the way Filipinos live their retirement years for the better.

Thanks to the company's innovative pension and education plans, it managed to post impressive growth over the years. Last year, total collections increased by about 40 percent. Net profits also grew dramatically and by year's end, the company's trust fund doubled from last year's figures.

This isn't the first time though that the company has achieved such remarkable growth rates. Since its inception in 1994, Ayala Plans' amazing expansion has hinged on several other milestones, which enabled the company to achieve its lofty status today.

In 1995, the company jumpstarted its technological capacity by launching the Ayala Plans Pre-need Resource And Information System or APPRAIS. It enabled computer users in the regions and at the head office to access the computer database in the head office servers to extract and input data. By year's end, the company had five regional offices and posted P13 million in total collection.

Some of the men and women behind Ayala Plan's success.

In 1996, Ayala Plans soared to record heights when its paid-up capital surged to P100 million, making the company one of the first to achieve such a feat. The company also began an employee recognition program for employees who earned the most outstanding rating in the annual work performance. Elmina P. Reginio, who worked as Processing Assistant in the Plan Services Unit was the first awardee. The company also ended the year selling 6,046 plans, P41.9 million in Initial Cash Brought In (ICBI), and P63 million in total collections, five times more than what was collected in 1995.

In 1997, the company gave priority to manpower training and development, where the first supervisory program for supervisors and unit heads focused on developing and learning the basic supervisory skills in delegation, leadership, motivation and communications. It also included modules on work values and attitudes.

1998 was a year for accelerated growth. The opening of five new regional offices in Calamba, Novaliches, Lipa, Tacloban and Zamboanga consequently led to the growth of the company's sales force. This development enabled Ayala Plans to continue achieving record-breaking figures.

In 1999, the company maintained its rapid momentum by outdoing itself in terms total sales and revenues. Its sales force likewise continued to rise, triggering remarkable growth in the number of plan holders.

Indeed, Ayala Plans has already achieved so much in so short a time. As Ayala Plans nears its seventh year of operations, its clients can only be assured that the company won't veer away from its vision of being the leading pre-need company in terms of service excellence, product relevance and business stability.

MEET SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE AYALA PLANS A LEADER

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE MILLENNIUM RACE TO THE TOP

Sales Counselor Category

Winners

HADJA JACQUELINE OMAR
Zamboanga

PILAR TORRES
Zamboanga

ELIZABETH TO
Zamboanga

JESSIELYN SATO
ANC

Qualifiers

JOSE BANGAYAN
Zamboanga

SYLVIA BALUYUT
Butuan

MELODY CHENG
ANC

EMMILIE JOY ESTABILLO
San Pedro

LUCY ANN GARCIA
Cavite

JOYCE OGAWA
ANC

GLENN PEDROSO
Iloilo

MANUEL ROLDAN
Makati 6

JOJO TIQUI
Tarlac

JESSE CALUAG
Makati 7

MA. LUZ CRUZ
Kalookan

ROMEO GERALDEZ, JR.
General Santos

SUSAN ROSARIO
Malolos

Delegates

SUSAN BUHAY
Lucena

REYANNE CARTAGENA
Makati 7

PILAR CATEDRAL
Iloilo

RAUL CORRALES
Cebu 1

ADETTE ANN DULLANO
Iloilo

JOSEPH RYAN GATPATAN
Iloilo

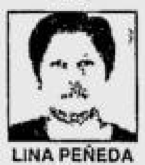
MARINA GUTIERREZ
Makati

ENRICO GO
Pasay

COSSETE JUSTINIANI
Iloilo

MIGUEL MENDAÑO
Pasay

MARGARITA OQUENDO
Roxas


LINA PEÑEDA
Makati 2

ANATALIA REYNERA
Zamboanga

HELEN SANTIAS
ABG

JEFFREY SONORA
Ortigas

SOTERA UY
Zamboanga

JOREVIC AGUIRRE
Kalookan

VIRGINIA CAMALIGA
Imus

MA. MELODIA CASTILLO
Digos

MA. THERESA CASTILLO
Digos

VERONICA KHO
Tacloban

ENRIQUE MENDEZ
General Santos

DELIA QUEROZ
San Juan

ELIAS SULTAN
General Santos

District Manager Category

Winner

MA. BARBARA AURORA ESPINO
Makati

Qualifier

JOSEPH CRUZ
Malolos

Corporate Champions

Top Sales Counselor of 2000
ROSELYN YAP
Zamboanga

Top District Manager of 2000
VICTORINA TAN
Lucena

Top Area Manager of 2000
RODOLFO TORRES
Zamboanga

RM of the Year

NERI FRANCISCO, JR.
Zamboanga

Rookie RM of the Year

SONNY ALCALA
Butuan

Area Manager Category

Qualifier

MA. VERONICA TAN
Lucena

Delegates

VIC ALCORDO
Cebu

TERESITA DULLANO
Iloilo

BARBARA CAMACHO
Makati 7

NANCY GOLEZ
Iloilo

ISAGANI GUTIERREZ
Makati

ROWEL MERCADO
ANC

ALBERT EALA
Kalookan

JENNIFER TAN
Zamboanga

MANUEL VELAYO
General Santos

Franchise Holder

Qualifier

JORALYN GARCIA
Cebu 1

**THE AYALA PLANS
ANNUAL SALES CONVENTION**

**6 p.m., March 19, 2001
Maynila Ballroom
Manila Hotel**

AYALA PLANS

A subsidiary of
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

Zamboanga Regional Office bags Top Regional Office Award

Calamities, conflicts and crises have a way of bringing out the best in every man. That's because in spite of these upheavals, there have emerged countless tales that champion the human spirit. The Zamboanga Regional Office of Ayala Plans is one fine example.

With the peace and order problem ravaging Mindanao last year, few people would have imagined that the Zamboanga RO would be recognized as the 2001 Annual Sales Conventions' Top Regional Office. With Neri Francisco, Jr. at the helm, the Zamboanga RO met and surpassed all the parameters set for regional offices nationwide. This included the highest Initial Cash Brought In (ICBI) level, a 100 percent ICBI regional management goal achievement, and at least two Area Managers who individually recorded at least P720,000 ICBI for the whole year.

The peace and order situation last year did not deter Francisco and his team from getting the job done. Fondly referring to them as his "Dream Team," Francisco says they viewed the situation as a tremendous opportunity for them to extensively market the products of Ayala Plans. "The fact that this is something that we have always wanted to do probably led to our success. We never really viewed the peace and order problem as a hindrance," says Francisco.

Francisco attributes the Zamboanga RO's success to God. "We always believed that God would not give us a task that we wouldn't be able to handle. In His divine ways, anything and everything is possible." On a personal note, he thanks his family, "For their endearing support and for understanding the nature of my job."

Neri Francisco, Jr. (right) receiving the Top Regional Office award from Ed Joson (center) during the recent kick-off conference. Looking on is Vicente Ruperto, AVP & Group Head of Ayala Plans.

Francisco admits that being on top is not an easy thing to do. "It requires special talents and skills and I am fortunate that God has blessed me with a team that is overflowing with such exceptional qualities," he says. He adds that success is all in the mind. "You will only become successful if you think about success and if you project thought patterns of your aspirations and dreams. Positive and definite thoughts about your goals will certainly bring your fantasies a step closer to reality," he enthuses.

The 2001 Annual Sales Convention also serves as a double whammy celebration for Zamboanga because in spite of the Top Regional Office award, two other honorees, Top Sales Counselor Roselyn Yap and Top Area Manager Rodolfo Torres, hail from the same province. "It is truly a great honor," says Francisco. "This was made possible because we believed that our ideas, dreams and the products of Ayala Plans have the power to change situations for the better. This simple thought became our guide in leading us to excel."

Francisco says he follows an uncomplicated guiding pattern to achieve his goals. "Just follow the basic strategies. Recruit quality personnel continuously, launch attractive sales drives and establish directing patterns to meet your monthly targets." In closing, he gives this pep talk to his team. "Plant as many goal seeds as you can and always have the flexibility to change. I know we have the capacity to make the Zamboanga Regional Office constantly victorious for the rest of the years."

Zamboanga RM for year 2000 Neri "Junny" Francisco, Jr. speaking during the event

It may seem like a tall order but being the top regional office definitely means a lot to Francisco and his team. And they are not about to rest on their laurels. This early, the Zamboanga RO is already thinking of ways on how to retain their award and judging from their unparalleled dedication, it appears like they will be doing just that -- war or no war at all.

Ensure your bright future with an Ayala Pension Plan

Will you have to wait for your plan's maturity before the benefits start rolling in?
Will your child have to worry about getting to college?

Does the thought of retirement scare you?

Well, if you haven't saved enough or if you didn't give serious thought to pension plans then retirement might sound discomforting. Because whatever your profession, there's no denying the fact that you need to put that extra effort in saving funds, hoping that when you reach the twilight of your career, you can sit back and reap the fruits of your labor.

But preparing for an enjoyable retirement takes more than the usual savings or ordinary investments. That's why it's imperative that you immediately plan for your retirement while you are in your most productive years. And there's no better way to do this than with an Ayala Pension Plan.

Backed by the 165-year business expertise of the Ayala name, the Ayala Pension Plan is loaded with a wealth of features that's easy on your budget. With Ayala Pension Plan, you can decide the amount of pension benefit you want to receive based on projected future needs. Plus, whatever plan you choose is transferable.

Payment is so convenient! You can pay for your plan in spot cash, annual, semi-annual or quarterly modes within five years which can mature after 10 years from the issue date. Moreover, you can avail of your benefits as a lump sum, a monthly pension or a partially withdrawn amount so you can go on that dream vacation or even put up your own business.

There are also a number of insurance benefits that will be made available even before your plan matures. There's the Group Credit Life Insurance and the Group Yearly Renewable Term Insurance which pays the beneficiary an amount equal to the plan price, should something happen to the plan holder.

Ayala Pension Plan's Dismemberment Benefit will also pay the beneficiary an additional cash benefit equal to the plan price, in case of untoward incidents, while the Total and Permanent Disability Benefit takes care of all the remaining installments.

You can also experience total payment flexibility by availing of other payment schemes in 7 or 10 years which can, depending on your choice, mature after 15, 20 or 25 years from issuance date.

So you see, there's absolutely no reason to dread retirement as long as you've got an Ayala Pension Plan to back you up and make the rest of your life exactly what it should always be: worry free.

Ayala Life: Recognizing the best in the life insurance industry

Ayala Life Assurance, Inc., one of the country's leading life insurance companies, recently treated 44 of its business partners to a Thai spectacle. This is part of the company's way of paying tribute to their outstanding efforts of consistently bringing Ayala Life's quality insurance products to countless Filipinos.

Held at the Luzon Ballroom of The Westin Philippine Plaza, the event was attended by Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis as guest of honor. Welcoming Commissioner Malinis were Ayala Insurance Companies President Alfonso L. Salcedo Jr., Ayala Life Vice President and Sales Director Joe Ferreria and Ayala Life Marketing Director Anthony Parungao. Rhea Santos and Ivan Mayrina, hosts of the popular morning show *Unang Hirit*, emceed the event.

Here's to good spirits. Ayala INSCOS President Yogi Salcedo, Jr. (third from left) and Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis (rightmost) lead the Loi Krathong, a Thai ceremony meant to attract good spirits. With them are the top business partners from left, Ma. Loida Meimban, Tito Francisco, Ayala Life Sales Director Joe Ferreria and Ana Lisa Duran.

Prior to the main event, the evening's honorees had cocktails with the Insurance Commissioner and ranking officials of Ayala Life. Top Branch Manager Tito Francisco, Top Agency Manager Ana Lisa Duran and Top Producer Ma. Loida Meimban, led this year's batch of awardees. The three, along with the other awardees, will visit Bangkok, Thailand on May 4 to 7 this year to attend the 6th Asia Pacific Life Insurance Congress.

During the awarding ceremony, Commissioner Malinis gave a very encouraging report on the growing life insurance industry. Malinis also commended Ayala Life's hardworking business partners for propelling the company among the ranks of the top five in the industry.

"Surely, it took a collective effort from all of Ayala Life's officers and staff to gain such status in the industry," says the Commissioner, "but there is no denying the very special role that underwriters must have played in this endeavor."

Calling them "windows to an insurance company's soul," Commissioner Malinis says, "business partners have direct and primary access to the insuring public and through their sincerity and professionalism in their dealings, a client would build a mental image of the company which they represent."

Salcedo for his part thanked all business partners for their continued support and dynamism. "We are very proud of having all of you and we know you have achieved success because of the passion you have for what you do," he says. "It's the passion that makes people do the ordinary, extraordinarily well. The same passion that makes the impossible, possible and it is the passion I share with you all as we work together to bring our company toward attaining market leadership."

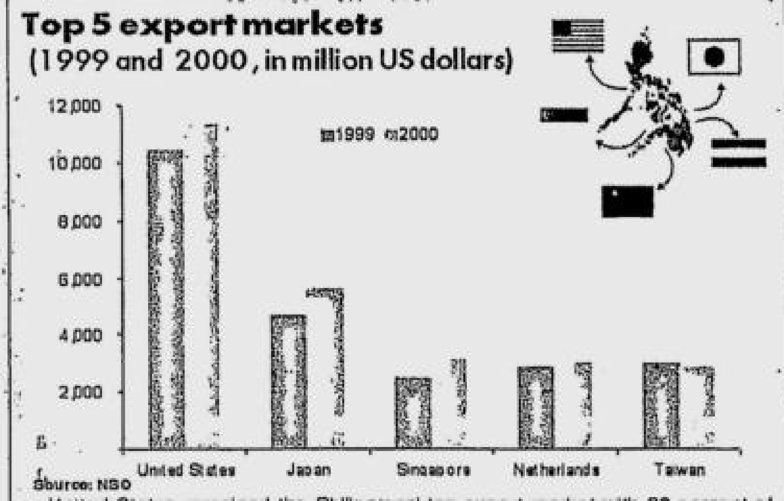
Salcedo then led Francisco, Duran, Meimban, Ferreria and Commissioner Malinis to a Thai ritual called *Loi Krathong*, a ceremony to attract good tidings and positive spirits for the year ahead. Afterward, the Real Groove band dished out a number of perky tunes that kept the evening's celebrations going till the wee hours of the morning.

Such a celebration can only inspire all business partners to work even harder towards making quality life insurance services available to Filipinos and eventually catapult Ayala Life into attaining market leadership.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 5 export markets
(1999 and 2000, in million US dollars)



Source: NSO

United States remained the Philippines' top export market with 30 percent of exports going there. Japan was second, although its share of the total exports fell from 14.7 percent in 1999 to 13.3 percent last year. Exports to Singapore for the whole year of 2000 rose by 26.6 percent compared to the same period the previous year. Taiwan slid from the third to the fifth spot as exports to this country fell 4.4 percent in 2000.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Urban Bank directors accuse top execs of misleading them

By Clarissa S. Batino

TEN directors of Urban Bank Inc. have testified anew against their former chair and president, whom they accused of misleading them about the bank's true financial health.

In an affidavit, some directors said they even deposited money days before Urban Bank went belly-up and declared a holiday because they were assured there was nothing wrong with the bank.

The 10 directors said Urban Bank chair Arsenio Bartolome III and president Teodoro Borlongan failed to inform them that the bank bought P4.6 billion worth of "trash receivables" from Urbancorp Investment Inc.

"From the last regular meeting on March 23 to the special meeting on April 24, the members of the board were not advised or consulted, nor did they approve or authorize, the purchase and sale by Urban Bank of Urbancorp assets worth P2.8 billion on April 19, P744.8 million on April 24 and P1.066 billion on April 25," the directors said in their affidavit.

Urban Bank declared a holiday on April 26 following heavy withdrawals by panicky depositors. It was consequently shut down by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on the same day.

The directors who issued the affidavit were Isidro Consunji, Juvencio Dizon, Francisco Eizmendi, Dee Hua Gatchalian, Noel Laman, Alberto de Larrazabal, Eric Lee, Benjamin de Leon, Ferdinand Lim and Carlos Salinas.

Sources said these directors were kept in the dark the whole time Urban Bank was convulsing from a liquidity crunch. They said this was one reason why Bartolome and Borlongan failed to produce a board resolution that the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. sought in exchange for a P1.3-billion bailout fund.

"The records would show that some of the directors placed substantial amounts of new money or rolled over maturing placements on April 10, 17, 18, 19, 24 and 25," the 10 directors said in their affidavit.

They said they only found out about the bank's problems on April 22, 2000, four days before the central bank shut down Urban Bank.

The 10 directors said they were advised by the BSP and PDIC on April 22, 2000, that Urban Bank had incurred past due loans of more than P1 billion. They were also told that as early as February, the bank had been suffering from serious liquidity problems, and that management resorted to inter-bank borrowings from February to April to meet withdrawals.

The Department of Justice has filed charges of estafa involving P1.8 billion against Bartolome, Borlongan and nine other officials of Urban Bank.

The 11 officials were accused of "willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously" misappropriating money of Urban Bank depositors that were used to buy "trash receivables" of Urbancorp.

The justice department filed in the Makati Regional Trial Court two separate cases of estafa against the officials.

One case involved P744.8 million worth of transactions made on April 24, 2000 while the other case involved P1.049 billion worth of transactions on April 25.

Urban Bank has over 14,000 depositors and deposits of P9.1 billion, of which only P560,000 were insured. The bank pointed to massive withdrawals reaching P4 billion in the last five weeks prior to its closure as the main reason for the bank's liquidity problems.

The BSP and PDIC later found out the liquidity problem was caused by the decision of top bank officials to prioritize withdrawals from Urbancorp and bought substandard receivables at the expense of its depositors.

The new estafa cases were on top of an earlier P2.8-billion estafa case filed by the justice department against 10 Urban Bank officials.

Bartolome was cleared in that case by the Makati Regional Trial Court and a hold-departure order against him was lifted by the Macapagal administration.

Malacañang names Leung as DBP chair

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed former Finance Secretary Ernest Leung as chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Leung, who also headed the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., would replace former DBP chair Ramon Abad, a political appointee of former President Joseph Estrada.

Malacañang was originally set to appoint former Deutsche Bank AG country manager Jose Isidro Camacho to the PDIC, the agency providing insurance coverage to depositors. Camacho instead accepted an appointment as energy secretary.

Leung initiated an investigation into the closure of medium-size lender Orient Bank as head of the PDIC.

The investigation led to the filing of estafa charges against Orient Bank majority owner Jose Go. Government regulators said Go used dummy companies to get personal loans from Orient Bank beyond the limits set by law.

The Court of Appeals, however, has ordered the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the PDIC to stop the liquidation of Orient Bank.

As finance chief, Leung advocated a policy of weeding out weak banks to strengthen the financial system.

NTC eases up on plan to regulate 'texting'

By Anthony O. Alcantara

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has been "texted."

Faced with growing criticism from the Commission on Human Rights and advocacy groups, the NTC is easing up on its plan to disconnect mobile phone subscribers sending abusive messages.

NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. told the INQUIRER that the human rights commission informed the NTC that it could not simply cut off a cell phone user without a court order.

"Subscribers can always deny that they received our warnings through text messaging or that they have been asked to respond to a complaint. It's the same way when we call them. They can always deny because we don't know exactly where they are," Rio said.

"(However), we will not be prevented from sending warnings to those sending the objectionable messages," he stressed.

Rio said the NTC was not backing out of its plan to regulate text messages but would be more circumspect when dealing with those abusing the service.

He disclosed that the NTC and CHR would conclude a memorandum of agreement on the regulation of text messages this week.

He added that mobile phone companies have also offered to submit special code numbers to identify messages or warnings coming from the NTC to their subscribers.

There are at least 6 million mobile phone users in the country. Most of them use short messaging services, more popularly referred to as "texting."

In a separate interview, NTC Deputy Commissioner Armi Jane Borje said the NTC has so far received 50 complaints since news came out that it would regulate text messages.

"Some of them concern death threats. However, we still have to determine the validity of the complaints before we can do anything," she said.

Rio earlier said the process of prosecuting abusive cell phone subscribers would be similar to suing somebody who verbally abuses another person.

Oil prices seen steady at $22-$25

THE ECONOMIST Intelligence Unit said Friday world crude prices might stay around the $22-to-25-per-barrel range throughout the year due to declining demand in the United States.

"If we have a smaller demand from the US, which is by far the biggest consumer of oil, then that has an impact on the suppliers who now have an excess supply," Peter Wallace, president of EIU Philippines Inc., said.

The EIU presented a political and economic assessment of the Macapagal administration before a gathering of foreign businessmen and Cabinet officials.

Wallace also said the strengthening of the peso took the pressure off, in peso terms, the cost of oil in the Philippines.

"If you put these two things together, we're likely to keep a relatively stable level of pricing of oil products. There might be a slight increase in the year but it won't be anything significant like we've had in the past," he said.

Local oil prices rose by as much as P1.20 per liter last year due to volatility in world crude prices and the fast deterioration of the peso owing to scandals involving then President Joseph Estrada.

Wallace said local oil prices would probably not be adjusted as often as they were last year.

Ronnel W. Domingo

Share . . .

(From page B6)

the market behaved this way was during the latter years of the Marcos regime, in 1983 to 1984," Ackerman said.

On the global front, all markets were shaken by the admission made by Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa that declining spending in Japan was becoming a serious problem.

Japan's growing economic woes and concerns about distress in its banking sector took its toll on the Japanese currency, dragging other Asian currencies, including the peso, along with it.

The Philippines is heavily dependent on Japan as the latter contributes a significant chunk of the country's total foreign investments and total exports. The Philippines' exports to Japan last year amounted to $5.60 billion or 14.72 percent of the country's total shipments.

Free Common Carrier Insurance worth US$100,000!

Safeguard yourself with excellent life and non-life insurance packages with the Metrobank PowerClub! Get a free US$100,000 common carrier accidental death insurance and a free accidental death insurance worth US$5,000. Save as much as ₱16,000 in annual premiums! These policies cover you throughout the world, at work or at play. Plus privileges from Philippine AXA Life and Philippine Charter Insurance Corporation! What's more, on top of no minimum balance requirement and waived fall-below fees on your savings or regular checking account, the Metrobank PowerClub gives you a lot of other privileges for you to enjoy more out of life! So join the Metrobank PowerClub now and enjoy big savings!

METROBANK POWERCLUB

THE POWER OF YOUR SAVINGS MULTIPLIED

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE INQUIRE AT YOUR METROBANK BRANCH.

You're in good hands with METROBANK

A proud member of BancNet

Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices, and subsidiaries.
Head Office: Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati City; Web Page: http://www.metrobank.com.ph E-mail: metrobank@metrobank.com.ph
Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to ₱100,000.00 per depositor.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

SKIN PEEL & WHITENING
WARTS PIMPLES SCARS
HAIRLOSS Ex SWEAT VD-STD
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm DR. GATAN

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

P75/m² Steel Truss 7282605
P400 CAD Drafting 8819158

COSMETOLOGY

FREE Skin-Facial 8951381

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

Slimming Program 5219683

MASSAGE

Experience the Scientific Massage Theraphy 5343346

ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

European Girl 09179824530

H-H-M-S MALE 7314018

Male #16 Palanan 7320659

Masage 8174030 Talo 8156172

MASSAGE (0919)433-3191 GEM

•NewMabuhay Msg4383570

PUREMASSAGE 09173939095

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

WIND OFF 752-3149 M/F

REFLEXOLOGY

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Reflextherapy 6563702 Myr

TUTORIAL LESSONS

ART 0919-5656690/9100942

HOME SERVICE JKP PIANO LESSONS P1,300/M 532-5815

LALUZ 5268216/5268270

MISCELLANEOUS

•SKIN PROBLEMS?•
FOR BEAUTY TIPS
TEXT US 0919-5896551

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Affordable Maids 872-0265

BEST MAID PROV'L. 7111602

BEST MAIDS w/NBI 853-3504

MAIDS 9124701 • 9124706

MAIDS w/CLEAR 807-5788

MAIDS
Available • 871-2370

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND
MAIDS
Call: Joy 873-5271 • 873-7055

Prov'l All Around Maids Driver H'Boy w/NBI 8735062 • 8712372

RELIABLE MAID YAYA 7418078

GOOD MAIDS 9133005

LIPAT BAHAY

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY 713-0878/716-9177

•LIPAT•731-6833

MISCELLANEOUS

Reduce Your Electric Bill Thru VG 8823920 8817892

CARPET CLEANING

Sofa Shampooing 820-7068

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASAY

F-B Harrison Pasay Comm'l Prop. LA900sqm 534-7949

PASIG

Pasig nr. Market 3sty bldg. w/Income 5.5M 928-3267

QUEZON CITY

Panay QC 1000m² w/2Hse 2Sty N Bung 26T/m² 928-3267

Kamias w/Comm'l Units 600m² P15M • 928-3267

MAYON QC w/6Units 480m² P22T/m² • 928-3267

Visayas Comm'l Unit 2Sty Lot 75m² 3.2M • 928-3267

OTHER AREAS

San Mateo 1129sqm
Call 9251348/49/9206694

GUEVENTHOMES
BACOOR near SM

P10T-17T/mo. NO D/P
531-1384 • 531-0390/95
(0915) 704-3888
www.guevent.com

VARIOUS AREAS

BUY-LEASE-SELL
leo@manilaprop.com

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Alabang Hills LA450m² 3BR Den Nice P10M • 533-5525

AYALABANG 2Sty LA415 FA196 9.5M Only 534-7949

AYALABANG 2Sty LA450 FA 400 4B 4TB Only 534-7949

LAS PINAS

BFRes 180m² 3br 2tb 1.6M 1.8M 2.5M 8726951 • 8723140

BFRes 300m² Cor. 3BR 2TB 3.3M 872-6951 • 872-3140

Auburn Place New 2Stry 3BR 2.2M Terms 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry Corner 4BR 4TB 2.9M 872-6951

Auburn Place 2.2M 2stys 3br 2tb new Term 8747234

Manuela 4A 192 @5700/m² Neg. • Tel.# 874-7234

BFRV 2.7M Neg 3br 3tb 2carport LA186 874-7234

BFRV 2.6M Neg 2sty 4br 3tb B-New 874-7234 Pepe

BFRV 2.7M Neg LA341 2BR 1TB FA70 • 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 3br 2tb Phone Neg LA144 FA90 874-7234

BFRV 2.2M 2sty 3br 2tb Single Terms • 874-7234

BFRV 2.5M 3br 2tb Phone 2Carport LA180 • 874-7234

LPinas New 2Stry 3BR 2TB 2.2M Terms • 872-6951

Pilar BNew 2Stry 4br 3TB Nice P2.7M • 872-6951

BFRes BNew 2Stry 4BR 3TB 3.8M Terms 872-6951

LAS PINAS/ BACOOR
2-4 BRS, Cash or Term
874-0486 • 874-0487
873-5949 • 874-2175

MAKATI

Holiday Inn Eaton Makati Good Income Tel 928-1469

Magallanes Subd. - Makati H&L LA367 3BR 643-5313

MANILA

Binondo old/hse190m² 11M Near Lavazarez 413-4411

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownerlvngSF0917-8143792

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3•
LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg
Joann 912-5775

CASIMIRO
TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
near SM Bacoor
Initial DP: P15,000

WESTVILLE
HOMES
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P15,000
FORTE REALTY
2/F Princess Bldg, Esteban St,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
872-7603 871-8318
873-0787 810-7297
810-8019 815-2144
810-7183
Welcome Brokers & Agents

MANDALUYONG

215 Sqm Near EDSA Shortcut to MAKATI

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PASIG

• Nr Ortigas & Makati H&L Twnhouse P4-6-5M Very Nice Villi Page 1441-112235 0917-5320224 Jojo

Valle Verde 4BR House New w/Pool • 635-6722

Nice Valle Verde w/Pool 4BR Elegant 1277-37052

Psg Bo Kapitolyo H&L New 5BTB 24hrs H'O • 643-5313

Valle Verde LA840 FA600 4br 6pkg Elegant 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

** Nr Ateneo 4M 10wn Pbuild as /Spec w/View 6453731

Villa Paramita Scout Boromeo nr Bohol 9283267

Baler St. QC L-3500/m² Whse 18T/m² Tel 928-1469

Concrete 2sty 5BR 6TB Srvnt-sQtrs Library wide Sala No Agents 407m² nr Congressional Ave QC 9275456

Greenmeadows LA805 FA650 6br 8pkg Jacuzzi 681-2457

•GSIS Hills C-5/Quirino Hi. New 3.9M LA300 4br 7215226

U.P. Village QC LA400m²-600m² 6M-15M • 533-5525

Roosevelt Q.C. LA624m² wHse 928-1469 • 453-4877

D. Tuazon SMH LA411/m² Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

Maginhawa U.P. VII H&L LA650sqm P10M 633-4107

nr ATENEO 4M&up 6453731

Samat St. w/5sty Bldg 600 SMH QC Whse 9298376

Sta. Mesa Hts 240m² 3BR 3TB Mds Rm 5M 931-7898

E. Abada/Ateneo P24T/m² 1,500 10BR • 721-5226

RIZAL

Birmingham Place Cainta 260m² 2.6M Rush 6334107

CAINTA VISTA VERDE
Cor Lot 3BR 2TB 247sqm P2.5M (Neg) Tel#637-8003

FILINVEST EASTVILLE
Bung 3br2tb FA115 LA132 2kit. Cash/Term 677-1955

SAN JUAN

Nr. Aurora Blvd/N.Domingo P9M LA233 4br DBO 7215226

PROVINCIAL

1. Malolos 2Sty 6 units New Twnhses 980T ea. w in a spacious cmpd nr Univ & along main road.
2. San Jose Ayala Techn-oparnk Imp 2 Sty 3Bdrm Sale / Rent 8509863 / 8265073

AYALA Sta. Rosa (Phenix) LA205 FA159sqm 534-7949

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA:110m² 1.4M Neg.T8388655 Norman

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

PROVINCIAL

Tagatay 249.5m 2sty BNew Tel.# 453-4877

Tagaytay L286m² 2Sty Bnew 453-4877 • 928-1469

LOT

KALOOCAN

24.9 HECTARES P2T/sqm ROGER • 652-0227

Deparo Cal. City 5000m² VLot P3500T/m² 453-4877

LAS PINAS

BFRV 180m² @ 6,500/m² Near Philam • 874-7234

BF Resort 169m² 176m² 180m² 6500/m² • 874-7234

BFRV nr Abel Mosce 169m² 6500 • 874-7234

Manuela 4A Thru Verdant 192m² @5700 Neg 8747234

BFRV 176m² @6500/m² neg near BlumField 874-7234

MANILA

Binondo OldBdg190m² 11M near Lavezarez 4134411

SAMPALOC front UST9126833

MANDALUYONG

•Nr Shaw Addition Hills• 4000m² Thse Proj 721-5226

MARIKINA

Marikina Heights 1860m² P6.5M Neg. • 931-7898

MUNTINLUPA

Susana Heights 525sqm Rush Sale Pgr 1277-37052

PARANAQUE

303m² Teoville T-8268985

3500m²LA Sucat/Lease P140K 2000m²FA T-8268985/8294790

South Admiral Vill Lot 480sqm Pager 1277-37052

BF300/600m²Rush9126833

Sucat V/L 724m² w/Old Hse at rear 22M neg. 643-5313

PASIG

**Greenwoods P5,100 Only w/Tambak • 671-4421

QUEZON CITY

** Capitol Dist 600sm 3800/sm 645-3731

•Acropolis 414m² P41T/m² •South DBO 721-5226

1000m² Alg EDSA Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469 • 453-4877

LA1640m² Tandang Sora V-Lot Tel.# 928-1469

Corinthian Lots 40T up 7240394/7226578 0917-4792264

Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² V-Lot • Tel 928-1469

Del Monte Ave QC LA-1711m² Vac Lot 928-1469

Tandang Sora QC L-1640m² P16T/m² • Tel.# 928-1469

Lincoln St. Roosevelt LA714m² 928-1469 V-Lot

Loyola Grand 600m² @ P8500 Call 09185079799

Ma Clara Nr. Banawe 1Tm² 23T/m² 724-0394/722-6578

New Mla QC 7449m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

**Nr Ateneo 900sm 5.5T /sm Nice Loc. 645-3731

TIERRA PURA LOTS 928-3267 • 141-210187

Sikatuna V 600m² 12M 915-5177 • 0917-5325440

West Tri. 434 P10.8M Old House DBO 721-5226

NEOPOLITAN nr Clubhse & SMFview 4lots all adjacent 2corner 9411487 ; 9420080

RIZAL

TAYTAY 1H 3.2/m² 6453731

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

SAN JUAN

** N. Domingo 300sm No Flood 20T/sm 6453731

PROVINCIAL

** Bat 4.6H 600sm 1Km Fr. Calabarzon HW 645-3731

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 928-3267

553m² TAGAYTAY V-LOT TEL.# 928-1469

Tagaytay Overlooking 679 Vac Lot Tel. 928-1469

LA7049m² Commercial Lot Malinta Bul Tel. 928-1469

Malinta Bul 7049m² VLot Along Hiway Tel 453-4877

Tanauan Batangas13013m² Call 9251348/49/9206694

Puerto Princesa good 4 Istfood bank 0917-3711210

Southwoods Cavite 480m² Face South P7T 633-4107

•Tiaong Quezon 3.6Hec• 600/m² Town Hway 7215226

Prto Princesa Rushl Com'l Lots 048-4342200/4332531

OTHER AREAS

Mla Swoods 580m² 9126833

EAGLE RIDGE Rush9126833

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

•Rushl Le Domain 2BR 6M •90m² 4121825/ 150341394

MANILA

Espana Mla New LA60m² 140m² 3BR P4M 533-5525

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong 1br new 77m² +Amenities 2.4M 5335525

Mandaluyong 4BR LA60m² FA150 P6.5M • 533-5525

Pioneer Highlands 129sqm 3BR w/Maid Rm F-Furnish P8M Neg. DBO Nice View 640-4037 6-12am Mon-Fri

RushlMegaPlaza 48.50sqm 1br 2.7MNeg 09178143792

Sedar-Ortigas 5.2M 3br/3tb Rushl142sqm 09178143792

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

WACKWACK THomes 93 sqm 2BR 3.2M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

Phoenix Hts Condo P5.2M 135m² 3BR carprk 4121825

**Nr C5 FA62 3Br 2Tb 1.7o Lmt 5Yrs 2 Pay 645-3731

**Nr C5 Res/Com TH 6M 357FA 156 0 Int 5Y 645-3731

ORTIGAS CONDO
Ultimate In Luxury/Quality Specs: 2BR 2B+MB F-Furn All Italian + 3AC / WD/ Jacuzzi, 2Kit, 126m² + Prkg 5.5M Aptmnt Only 633-6844

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo P1.3M "EZ"terms Swap Lots Cars C. Shares 9120647 9124428 4381480

** Nr EDSA FA 64 LA50 2Tb Bn Nice Loc 2.7M 6453731

34 MAALALAHANIN ST.,
TEACHER'S VILLAGE Q.C.
Brand New Last 2 Units
3 Flrs Attic Marble Prquet H'O Pump Lghtg Fxturs LA60/104sqm FA156/209sqm P3.1M / P4.5M Direct Buyers Only 633-6465 / 637-3751 850-9308 / 0917-5344730

SCOUT THSES 4-7M Nice 3Sty • 928-3267

BURGUNDY Plaza QC 2BR 2.5M 5312021 0917-3955738

Bnew Gilmore / N. Domingo P3.6M 90m² 2br DBO 721-5226

•NEW MLA LA172m² Bnew 6M 2sty 3BRw/ 2CG
•NR WEST AVE F230m² 4.2M 3BR 4TB 2CG New 4134411

NOVALICHES 350T 9390299

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

New Mla Nr St Lukes 9M 3Sty 4br 2cg New 4134411

RIZAL

Montalban 350T' 913-0393

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 3BR Condo w/View 928-3267

OTHER AREAS

CANYONWOODS
Twnhse with nice Taal Lake view along Tagaytay Ridge 4BR 4TB 240m² Lot fully furn strong H'O Ownermi-grating 5.4M Clubshare Comm'l Value 700T included Call 924-1058 or 0917-8129049

MEMORIAL LOT

•ETERNAL GARDEN•
Binan 4Lots 160T Neg.
CP:09189146916
PGR:141105067

HERITAGE PARK 141-692807

Heritage Park Now Open Several Lots • 671-4421

RESORT

Resthouse Beverly Hills Antipolo 1200m² 9251348/49 ; 9206694

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

FONTANA SHARE 200T 928-3267 • 141-210187

FARM/FISHPEN

Fish Pond 1.249H Binmaley Pangasinan 0919-3199295

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

3620065 BRIONES 7AVE 2TB S/T

MANILA

1BR strong H2O w/grge. tel. nr P. Gil St. 5642878/5640603

MANDALUYONG

1sty/2sty 532-5774 8T-10T

Studio
1Br & 2Br Units 4 Rent Call Gina/Elynor 5321016 (Tel-efax) MDC Residential Bldg
101 Isaac Lopez St, Mand. City

QUEZON CITY

2 Bedrooms 725-9419

SAN JUAN

2BR San Juan
9251348/49; 9206694

HOUSE

MAKATI

• Dasmarinas Vill Makati • 4BR 4383970 0917-7914379

QUEZON CITY

New Intramuros QC 120m² 2BR 1TB 2cg 10K 931-7898

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR furnh South Str Plaza 8447524

2BR 163sqm FF w/Pkg Maid's Rm. Call 896-6665

MAKATI 3BR 300m² 85T-100T/mo • 533-5525

Makati Stud 1-2BR Furn Sunvalley Pque 4BR Hse 3TB 3 Garage •850-9507•

PARANAQUE

•BFUL BAYFRONT STUDIO• with Full Amenities Pls. Call CHARO 801-0614•8-5

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

ORTIGAS CENTER 2-3BR 40T-60T/month • 533-5525

RENAISSANCE FURN 1BR 25T SALE 3.8M 2414865; 2415150; 2417005; 2414770

QUEZON CITY

P4,500/mo.CUBAO
P6,500/mo.Malate
Call 911-3361 / 926-4071

CONDO UP VILL QC 2 LEVEL 1BR AIRCON 7,500 T372-4354

OTHER AREAS

Park Ave. Mansion 1BR Studio 6-10/mo • 928-3267

FOR LEASE

Long Term Lease 1440m² Comml Lots @ Tirona St. Bagong Barrio Caloocan Factry & Warehse 9275456

•LOT-490m² A.Tuazon & 700m² A. Rodriguez Mkna 438-3970

Mkti Ave Off / Res Studio Ann 8097043 or 8093867

Roosevelt Ave Lot 300m² 438-3970 • 0917-7914379

WAREHOUSE
FOR LEASE
Located at Balete St. Brgy. Lala-an, Silang, Cavite
Consisting of 8 almost new large factory - warehouses w/complete facilities &
READY TO OPERATE
Bldg. I - 3,216m²
Bldg. II -3,360m²
Bldg. III - 3,360m²
Bldg. IV - 3,300m²
Bldg.V - 5,000m²
Bldg. VI - 10,368m²
Bldg. VII - 6,696m²
Bldg. VIII - 3,888m²
Lease offers on any of the buildings will be considered at P50.00/m²
For Inquiries Call
Tel. (045) 893-0201 to 05
Fax(045)8930206 to 08

ROOM & BOARD

Cubao Strong H2O; P850 9124106

Mkti Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995386

Near DLSU/Quirino Ave. Call 523-5465 / 523-8761

BUSINESS RENTAL

**Antel Global 142m² 350/m² Call 6812457

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

Makati 4 Pre-School 75T LA400 Semi-Furn 534-7949

Mandaluyong Ofc- Warehse Pacific Place 3BR 100m² 2Salcedo Place 3BR 181m² Citibank Center 284m² Taft Avenue 245m² Makati Office 135 & 174m² •CALL TEL#: 850-9507•

Ortigas/Makati 120-195m² 48T-97T/mo • 533-5525

Pasig City
nr Public Market
Comm'l & Office Spaces
350m² (2/Flr); 500m² (3/Flr)
Tel.# 628-0617 • 641-6648

TEKTITE P300/m² 2420922

Tektite-W 109+Pkg FFurn 350/sqm w/View 6334107

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

KIA

Ceres 1996 P110T Dropside Nw Tires 6458678

MERCEDES

MB100D VAN 4280012

NISSAN

98 Cefiro Elite A/T Black 800T Neg. 19tkm •8420343•

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

PARTS & ACCESSORIES

mazda NISSAN HONDA

EFI ENGINE
TUNE-UP &
COMP. DIAGNOSIS
1 month guaranteed work
RUBBERVOLT
36 West Ave., Quezon City
115 Mindanao Ave., Quezon City
Tel # 929-1514 Credit Cards Honored

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Cheap Vans 'n MB 9344988

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew L300 8254058 8261045

Bnew HiAce 6336754 9100893

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

CARS•VANS•8957247•8969956 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8955623

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

SELFDRIVE NEW CARS & VANS OPEN 24Hrs. ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

U Drive Cars Vans 8006595

•Car Vans4535288 9296250

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523-24

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 3670169

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Heidelberg Sorz 2 color offset 28 x 40 call Tel. 897-7673/895-5777

PETS

Basset Pup M-7T 656-6918

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard 23T 25T & 30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

BTABLE B'New/Accessories (02)8014494/8020566

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN Gie 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
ROLEX
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

MISCELLANEOUS

FRESH FLOWERS
Arrangement 4 All Occasions
4 Delivery T/F 7163274/7140870

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Letter Press (Minerva) Operator 733-2507

Personnel Mgr w/ exp. T9121664 txt 0917-9951648

FEMALE

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 7284971

MAIDS direct hire 8425736

Ofc Staff9134470 MsArroyo

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

WANTED FAMILY COOK Female not more than 40 yrs old stay in call Weng at 896-4772 or Apply at Rm. 208 GA Yupangco Bldg. 339 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City

Xraytech, Midwife, Nurse Pref. Near Cainta 6822941

MALE/FEMALE

ACCTG. SEC. 3717571 Emy

CARE GIVER T5280722

DIRECT HIRING
Ofc. Staff Look 4 Gen A
6732465 / 0919-3335580

M.D.&Skin Therapist w/exp Call Dra. Umali at Tel. No. 7235265; 7219227; 7219228

URGENT OFFICE STAFF PLS. CALL 7366660 LK FOR GEM

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE BASIC COMPUTER LESSONS WORD ETC 9319609

•NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC• Fantasy World Certificate of Proprietary Membership #002207 was cancelled on FEBRUARY 4, 2001. This certificate issued to LINDA P. ANBOCHI is no longer valid to any transaction.
PDI-Mar.17,18 & 19, 2001

AUCTION SALE

NATION Pawnshop, Inc., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Sept. 2000 on Mar. 23, 01, 10 am. Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TELEMARKETING 2477469

WAKE UP YOUR SAVINGS TRIPLE YOUR MONEY IN 1YR 0917-4719372 (DAVE)

AIRLINE MILE REWARDS & CASH FREE ENROLLMENT. Vsit www.thepayline.com blessings2@zwallet.com Cryus Inq (0917)4171985

•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

Globe/Smart Card 5325774

I made P970,000 in the last 3 months I need 25 women to train Call:Ms.Tan 5250228 or 34

LANDBANK BOND
WE BUY 95-100%
643-5529, 0917-7922363 Ver

RTW / Swimsuits 727-4934

RTW Cash/Term 3714226

Supervisor US$ 8951381

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of MA. PARALUMAN EDRALIN GABRIEL was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc. No. 740; Page No. 78; Book No. 1; Series of 2001 of Notary Public Vicente Roy L. Kayaban, Jr. of Manila
(PDI-Mar. 19, 26 & Apr. 2, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the loss of Solidbank Stock Cert. #A05940 w/310shrs class A under the name of Lolita G. Jose. If no contest r'ced, new cert. will be issued. PDI-March 5, 12, 19, 2001

PERSONAL

PRAYER to BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)
O, most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin,assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee(3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands(3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers.Amen. (This Prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published) VZREYES 031901

Your connection to better people, better jobs.

www.jobmarketonline.com

Do you want to work for a high-tech company that puts people's communication first?

Ericsson is the leading provider in the new telecoms world, with communications solutions that combine telecom and datacom technologies with the freedom of mobility for the user. With more than 100,000 employees in 140 countries, Ericsson simplifies communications for its customers - network operators, service providers, enterprises and customers-the world over.

If you are interested in the position offered below, we would like you to know that Ericsson's very advanced technologies have only one objective: to make it easier for people to communicate.

Wherever they are, whenever they want.

- TOTAL PROJECT MANAGER
- DIRECTOR
- TECHNICAL MANAGER

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resume to:

MR. ALBERT R. CUSTODIO
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
7th floor, Octagon Building, San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
albert.custodio@enp.ericsson.se

Make yourself heard.

ERICSSON

Republic of the Philippines

Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST)

Malita, Davao del Sur

TO: INTERESTED APPLICANTS

Please be informed that the search for the Presidency of the Southern Philippines Agri-Business and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST) is now OPEN.

The following are the minimum qualifications for the President:

1. Must be a natural-born citizen of the Philippines;
2. Must be academically qualified preferably a holder of an earned doctorate degree with training relevant to the mandate of SPAMAST;
3. Must have relevant administrative experience at least 5 years;
4. Not more than 60 years old on the date of application.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, interested person must be able to submit the following clearances:

a) Ombudsman
b) Civil Service Commission
c) National Bureau of Investigation

Application should be accompanied by:

1. Detailed Curriculum Vitae
2. Vision, Mission and Thrusts for the College
3. Neuro-psychiatric examination to be designated by SPAMAST.

Deadline for submission of documents will be on April 16, 2001. For more details contact tel. no. (082) 296-0784 or (082) 296-1580, Office of the Chair of the Search Committee c/o Commission on Higher Education Region XI, 318 Calachuchi Street, Juna Subdivision, Matina, Davao City or the Board Secretary of SPAMAST, Malita, Davao Building, Bajada, Davao City with Tel. & Telefax No. (082) 221-7627.

(Sgd) **DOMINGO S. SANORIA**
Board Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Irene Lee

is no longer connected or employed with Allied Banking Corporation. Information on "QUALIFIED THEFT THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENT" has been filed against her before the MCTC Branch 001, Talisay, Cebu docketed as Criminal Case Nos. 8114 - 8120. Warrants for her arrest have been issued. Any transaction entered into with her will not be honored by the Bank.

For any information as to her whereabouts, please call the:

CORPORATE SECURITY DEPARTMENT
Allied Banking Corporation, Allied Bank Center,
6754 Ayala Ave. Makati City at tel. nos.
(632) 816-1265; (632) 810-2464; (632) 816-3311 to 99
local 3204 or 3494 or get in touch with
Mr. Emmanuel Ferreros, Assistant Manager
ALLIED BANK TABUNOK BRANCH
at tel. nos. (032) 272-1297; (032) 272-3507; (032) 272-3325

Any information provided shall be treated with strict confidentiality.

(PDI – March 19, 2001)

Repubilka ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2001-16

Rebidding Date :	March 28, 2001 - 10:00 a.m.
PB010226-T3WG5866	SPARE PARTS FOR AIRCONDITIONING UNIT (Capacitor, Fan Motor, Filter, Drier Compressor, Valve, Refrigerant)
PB010226-T2JD5879	VACUUM PUMP FOR BN-25 Islander
PB010312-T3WG5915	UPGRADING OF DESKTOP PC to PENTIUM III/SOFTWARE LICENSES/HUB CONCENTRATOR
PB010312-T3WG5922	GRINDER/CUTTING TORCH/TIP/SHEATH/TOOL BITS
PB010312-T3WG5923	DRILLING TOOLS (Hammer, Chisel, Drill Bits)
PB010312-T3JR5924	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS FOR Mitsubishi Pajero Model 1990
PB010312-T3JR5925	AMMUNITIONS/SAFETY GOGGLES/EARMUFFS
PB010312-T3JR5926	SERVICES: Printing of GPE Accountability Relief Voucher, carbonless
PB010312-T3JR5927	SERVICES: Repair of Fireams
**Bidding Date :	April 6, 2001
2001-16-01	TELECOMMUNICATION SUPPLIES (Integrated Circuits, Connectors, Fuses, various amperes, Insulators, Bolts & Nuts, Diode, etc.)
2001-16-02	SOLDER/DESOLDERING TOOL/PUMP
2001-16-03	PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES (Tape, Film, Battery)
2001-16-04	BULBS for various Projectors, scanner
2001-16-05	TONER/INK CARTRIDGE for HP Deskjet Printer, Fax Machine
2001-16-06	* TIRES, tubeless, various sizes
2001-16-07	AUTOMOTIVE SPARE PARTS for various NPC vehicles
	* (To be purchased thru Open Ended Purchase Order for a period of six months starting June 2001)

Interested parties are invited to prequalify and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Rm. Ground Floor, Bldg. 2, NPC-OBC, Quezon Ave. cor. Agham Rd., Diliman, Quezon City.

Accreditation forms can be obtained from Mondays thru Fridays at the Accreditation and Bidding Support Services, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Bldg. 2 upon payment of P50.00, submission of company's TIN and proof of listing at the telephone directory. **Deadline for submission of duly accomplished forms on March 27, 2001.

Bidding documents available on March 20, 2001 upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable, presentation of original Certificate of Accreditation and supplier's number (DCE). **Last day of issuance of bidding documents April 3, 2001.

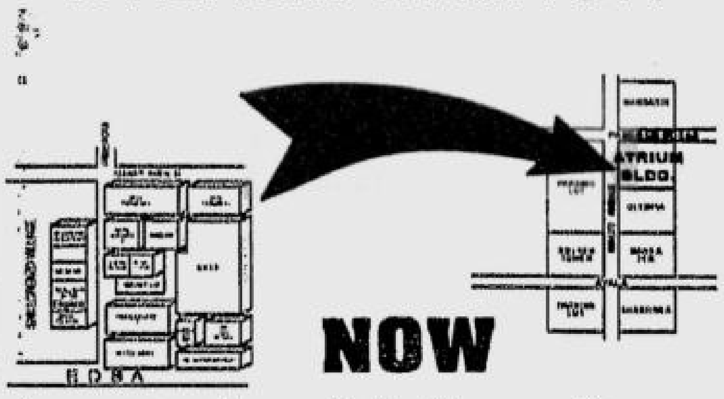
Issuance of accreditation forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 AM. For inquiries, please call no. 921-2874.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - March 19, 2001)

Inquirer's Makati Branch



NOW in Atrium!

Classified Ads
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Ground Floor, Atrium Bldg.,
Makati Avenue,
Makati City
New Tel. Nos. 811-4370 / 811-4361
811-4012 / 892-5578

A NEW CHINESE RESTAURANT URGENTLY NEEDS

1. USED STAINLESS KITCHEN/ RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT/ FREEZERS/TABLES/CHAIRS
2. SUPPLIERS - DIMSUM (SIOPAO/ SIOMAI/NOODLES, ETC.)
3. APPLICANTS FOR COOKS/ BUSBOY/WAITRESS
4. USED LITTLE TYKES

CALL/APPLY AT:
TEL. #2419751 (LOOK FOR IRENE)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that AEROSTAR INSURANCE AGENCY with office address, Ground Floor, Valero Plaza Building, Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City, represented by Ms. Hilda San Gabriel whose picture appears above, is no longer an authorized agency of PARAMOUNT GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION with office address, 2nd, 3rd, 15th, & 16th Floors, Sage House, 110 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City effective January 19, 2001. Any transaction entered into with the said agency and/or Ms. Hilda San Gabriel will not be honored by Paramount General Insurance Corporation after the said date.

(PDI – March 19, 2001)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-06-89, 900-04-74
Fax. No. (045) 900-00-92

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY** and/or **INSTALLATION** of:

Package 002-2001: 5 – MVA SUBSTATION ACCESSORIES AT MADAPDAP RESETTLEMENT (R.V. 390)
Package 003-2001: NEA Subsidy for expansion of DX Line at Santa Rita

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, Pampanga from **March 20, 2001 to March 26, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 P.M. on **March 27, 2001.**

Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on **March 28, at 10:00 AM** at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga starting March 28 to April 3, 2001.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900-0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd) **ENER D. PANGAN**
Chairman
PELCO II – PBAC

(PDI – March 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Address Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
PO Box Nos 213 U P Quezon City, 932 Manila; 1314 Central, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-6010 to 19 Fax No. 920-1646 Cable PHILNUCLEAR Telex No. 66604 PNRI PN

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding of

5,000 mCI IODINE - 131

Issuance of bidding documents	**March 22, 2001**
Pre-bid conference	To be announced later
Bidding	To be announced later

The approved budget is Four Hundred Seventy Five Thousand Pesos only (P475,000.00).

For inquiries interested parties may contact the PBAC Secretariat at tel. nos. 929-60-11 to 19 loc. 275 (c/o Julie Mendoza).

The Prequalification and Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place as the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **EDILBERTO A. CABALFIN**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI – March 19, 2001)

Repubilka ng Pilipinas
TANGGAPAN NG PANLALAWIGANG PINUNO NG PANGKALAHATANG PAGLILINGKOD
Kapitolyong Panlalawigan
Santa Cruz, Laguna
NOTICE

TO ALL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) COMPANIES AND BUSINESS GROUPS OR ITS CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIES:

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Laguna, in its desire to speed up the delivery of basic services and to increase its revenue tax take from realty taxes, has resolved to utilize Information Technology (IT) on its Real Property Tax Administration Systems (RPTA).

Because of failure of the first bidding held on March 12, 2001 in the Conference Room of the Governor's Office, interested companies and business groups involved in information technology, with established track record in installation and maintenance of Real Property Tax Administration system (RPTA) in LGUs, are hereby invited to submit their prequalification documents to the Special Committee on RPT Computerization (C/o the Office of the General Services Officer, Provincial Capitol, Sta. Cruz, Laguna not later than March 23, 2001). It is understood that immediately after the prequalification on March 23, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., all prequalified IT companies/IT Contractors/Suppliers will be required by the aforecited Special Committee on RPT Computerization Phase # I to conduct an Actual Demo or Comparative Testing of their proposed systems. After the actual demo or testing, the Members of the Special Committee will decide, who among the prequalified contractors will be allowed to participate in the actual rebidding. The said Special Committee reserves the right to eliminate (after the demo) other prequalified IT Suppliers and contractors who do not meet the standards set by them.

Those who will be allowed by the Special Committee top participate in the actual bidding will be required to buy bid forms, post bidders bond and will be allowed to bid for the proposed project of RPT Computerization Project Phase # I (Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba and Los Baños), which will subsequently be held on the same day of **March 23, 2001** at exactly 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Special Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids which will not meet the standards set by the proponents of the project or to accept any bid deemed most advantageous to the provincial government. The determination of compliance to the prequalifying, bidding and comparative testing requirements, as well as the competence of IT Contractors/Suppliers, rests upon the aforecited Committee.

Interested party/ies may secure the Scope of Work for the RPT Computerization Program, Phase I, covering the Municipalities of Biñan, Cabuyao, Calamba and Los Baños at the General Services Office - Laguna.

March 13, 2001

(Sgd.) **MITZIE C. ELBO**
General Services Officer

(PDI - March 19 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF RE-BIDDING

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be accepting sealed offers for the Sale thru Market Determined Pricing 104,000 MT (2,080,00 BAGS) 10% MOLSO Milled U.S. Rice, Grade No. 2, Four (4%) percent broken maximum at the indicative prices of:

a. Ex-Vessel Php 18.70/kg or 935.00/bag
b. Ex-Pier (FOT) Php 19.00/kg or 950.00/bag
c. Ex-Warehouse Php 20.00/kg or 1,000.00/bag

on **March 23, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the Boardroom, 10th floor, 101 Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.

A pre-rebidding conference shall be held on **March 21, 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom. In the pre-auction, interested bidders shall bring the following:

a. Original and xerox copy of NFA license (retailing, wholesaling or ricemilling).
b. Duly notarized authorization from the owner, partner, chairman or president that he or she is authorized to represent the business entity in the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities thereto.

All interested bidders shall submit a bid bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check from any reputable Metro Manila Bank.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **March 19, 2001** at DMO OCD, 5th floor from 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM. For any inquiries, please call tel. nos. 712-15-72 and 712-17-08.

Bidding documents will be available on **March 21, 2001** to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00. In case of bidding failure a pre-rebidding/re-bidding shall be conducted on at 2:00 PM at NFA Boardroom on **28** and **30 March 2001**, respectively.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality thereof, and to accept only such bids that are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY R. A. ABAD**
Administrator

(PDI -- March 18, 19 & 20, 2001)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
ATRIUM, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ALI MALL, CUBAO, QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
₱230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Demetria Cases Nolasco

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 16, 2001 at the age of 82.

Her loving husband **Dr. Tomas Nolasco, Sr.**; children **Condring, Tomas Jr.** and **Mila, Danny** and **Lita, Alva** and **Mario, Jorge** and **Ligaya, Ramon** and **Viola, Joe** and **Malou, Tony** and **Carrie, Sammy** and **Sheng, Pids** and **Tey**; together with grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Her body lies in state at the Centro Sur, Gattaran, Cagayan.

Interment to be announced later.

"Whoever serves Me must follow Me; and where I am, My servant also will be."
John 12:16

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for You alone, Lord, make me secure"
Psalm 4:9

Antonio V. San Jose

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 17, 2001 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Pining** (†); children **Rene** and **Emmy**, **Chito** and **Marivic**, and **Gerry**; grandchildren **Sara**, **Angel**, **Kim** and **Paula**, **Christian**, **Christine**, and **Catherine**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 22, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Capt. Sally Dy Buco Lim

Born: March 22, 1943
Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 11, 2001 at the age of 57.

His bereaved wife **Lory**, son **James**, daughters **Losaly**, **Sharmine**, **Praxides**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose and happiness of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 24, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God.
2 Cor. 4:14

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
Call us at 897-2535

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

[illegible]

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Visayas

Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street Iloilo City
Tel No. (033) 508-2530
Fax (033) 509-0190
Kalibo
Dra. Beaso Candelario
R B Printing
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel No (036) 262-4155/268-5200
Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
Komiks Magazines and
Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building, Fuentes Drive
Roxas City
Tel No (036) 621-5580/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel Nos (053)325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel No (038) 411-5007

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
c/o In-hand Negros Inc.
C L Montelibano Drive
Mandalagan, Bacolod City
(034) 433-3628/712-7021
Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel No (032) 232-7818
Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi Top News Mag and
Gen Merchandise
Dr V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete
City
Tel No (035) 225-5706/225-4384
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Rene's
Dr V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete
City
Tel No (035) 225-4320
Iloilo
Eddie-Mar News and
Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio
Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. (033) 337-3120

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Mindanao

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R C Busa Trading, 490 G. Flores
Avenue,
Butuan City
Tel Nos (085)225-3247/225-3169
Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets, Cagayan
de Oro City
Tel No (08822) 722-530
Grandstar News and Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo
Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax (088) 231-3248
E-mail grandstar@hotmail com
Cotabato
Marquez News and Magazine
Agency
51 Sinsuat Avenue, Cotabato City
Tel (064) 421-3264
Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Duterte Street, Davao City
(fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel No (082) 226-4400/221-3379/
221-3424/226-2031

Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall, Bajada
Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza, Bajada
Davao City
Tel No (082) 221-3927/227-4410
General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel Nos (083)552-3901/(0912)7500998
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel No (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marion's Variety Store, 86-88 Sevilla
Street
Zamboanga City
Tel Nos (062) 991-4294/991-1438
Mr. Ruben Bautista
#71 C. Alfano Street, Zamboanga
Tel. Nos (062) 991-2965/
(062) 993-2826

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

'Help our poor residents, vote YES for Meycauayan's cityhood'

MEYCAUAYAN, Bulacan – "Makiisa, ikampanya at bumoto po tayo sa darating na plebisito sa ika-30 ng Marso. Bumoto ng 'Yes' para sa pagiging siyudad ng ating bayan!" (Get out and vote in the coming plebiscite on March 30. vote "Yes" for the cityhood of Meycauayan!).

This was the appeal made by Mayor Eduardo "Eddie" Alarilla to constituents as he kicks off starting today an extensive 10-day information drive to drumbeat massive support for the conversion of this town, known as the "jewelry capital of the country," into a city.

Mayor Alarilla expressed optimism that with thefull support of the entire cross-section of Meycauayan's professional, religious, business, civic and youth sectors, the "Yes" vote will have a resounding victory in the plebiscite to formally ratify their town's conversion into a city.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed March 5 this year, Republic Act 9021, the law "Converting the Municipality of Meycauayan into a component city to be known as the City of Meycauayan". *(A copy of the entire charter is published on Pages 21, 22 & 23 of this issue – Ed.)*

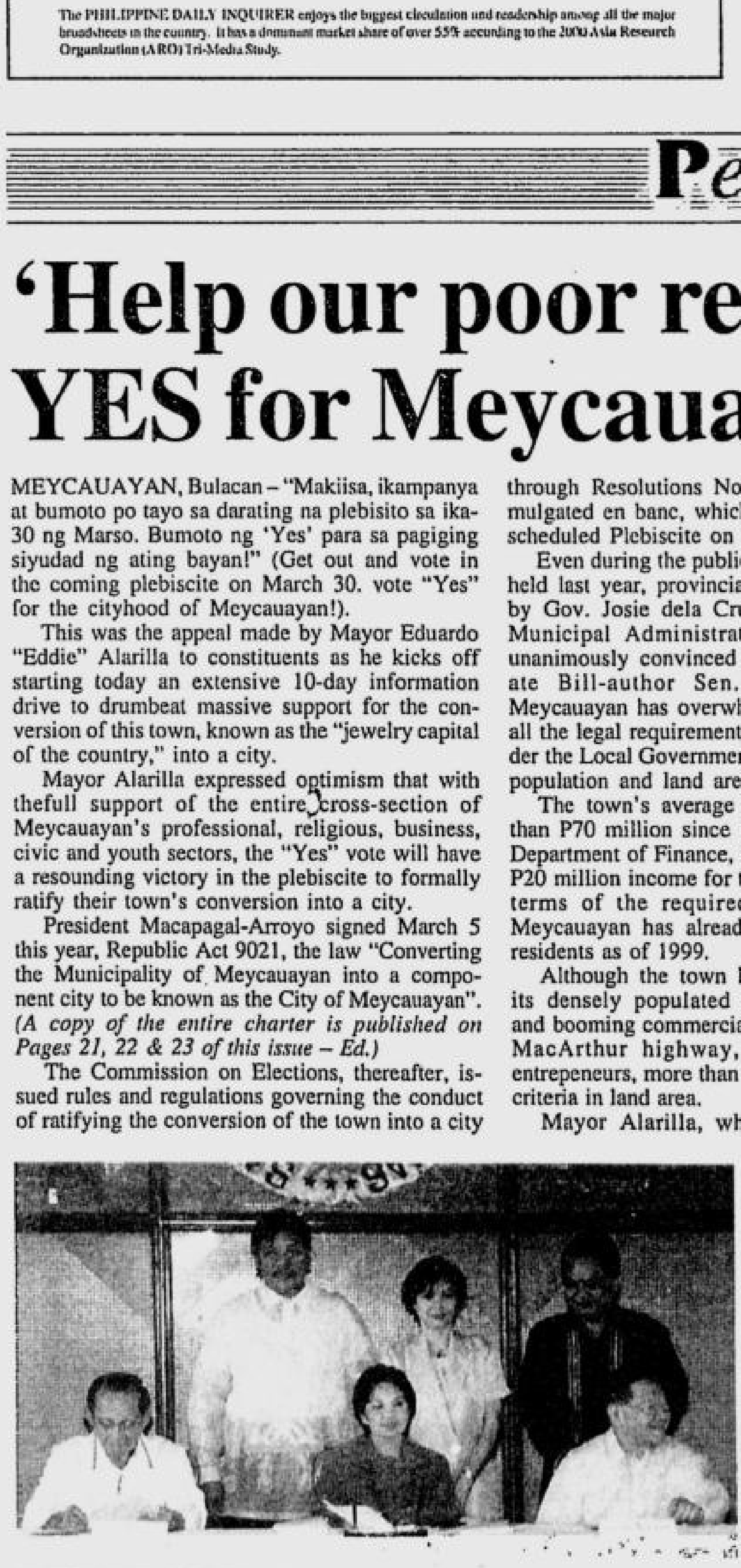
The Commission on Elections, thereafter, issued rules and regulations governing the conduct of ratifying the conversion of the town into a city through Resolutions Nos. 3745 and 3746, promulgated en banc, which paved the way for the scheduled Plebiscite on March 30.

Even during the public hearing on the cityhood held last year, provincial and town officials led by Gov. Josie dela Cruz, Mayor Alarilla, and Municipal Administrator Alberto Curz have unanimously convinced lawmakers led by Senate Bill-author Sen. Serge Osmeña that Meycauayan has overwhelmingly complied with all the legal requirements of becoming a city under the Local Government Code, namely: income, population and land area.

The town's average annual income of more than P70 million since 1997, as certified by the Department of Finance, is more than the required P20 million income for two consecutive years. In terms of the required 150,000 population, Meycauayan has already an estimated 154,439 residents as of 1999.

Although the town has only 3,210 hectares, its densely populated residential subdivisions and booming commercial districts along the busy MacArthur highway, teeming with robust entrepeneurs, more than make up for the required criteria in land area.

Mayor Alarilla, who is seeking a second term and probably "to become the first city mayor of Meycauayan" by June this year, is credited as the architect of Meycauayan's rapid growth and modernization.



PRESIDENT GLORIA Macapagal-Arroyo signs the law converting the town of Meycauayan into a city. Witnessing the recent signing in Malacañang are former President Fidel V. Ramos, House Speaker Feliciano Belmonte and Meycauayan Mayor Eduardo Alarilla (standing at left).

The commercial activity in the town, known for the jewelry and leather industries, is best exemplified in the adjoining barangays of Saluysoy, Malhacan, Bangcal and Tugatog, where all sorts of foreign banks, financial institutions and fast-food chains found in makati or Manila, have setup their branches.

Meycauayan is also topnotcher among the 24 town of Bulacan n terms of income. Mayor Alarilla aims for an averageof P170 million to P200 million income this year from last year's more thant P150 million.

The massive infrastructure being done since Alarilla assumed his post in 1998, include unprecedented accomplishments in completed barangay roads, health facilities, potable-water system, and flood-control projects, and saw the completion of a P70 million four-story public high school building. The school, equipped with an elevator, is considered the first of its kind in the province.

Mayor Alarilla's vision has made Meycauayan the ideal haven for multinational companies and investors who are lured by the lucrative jewelry, leather and tannery industries in the backyards of the town.

Alarilla is letting no stone unturned to inform constituents that they will, first and foremost, reap the benefits once Meycauayan become a city.

Its present share in Internal Revenue allotment (IRA), the fund allocated by the national government for local government units, amounting to P65 million will quadruple to between P240 million and P300 million.

At present, the town remits annually some P14 million from the RPT and some P20 million from the SEF as its share in the general Fund of the provincial government in Malolos. Cityhood status will also entitle Meycauayan to the **entire share** from the collection of Real Property Tax (RPT) and from the Special Educational Fund (SEF0 that are generated from franchise, transfer, amusement, and professional taxes of residents.

These projected five-fold increase in annual income will surely go a long way in the continued construction of vital infrastructure particularly schools and hospitals, and the maintenance of vital roads connecting the poblacion to the coastal and 'bukid' areas of the town, Alarilla said.

"Tulungan po natin and ating bayan umasenso para sa kapakanan ng maliliit nating kababayan. Itabi muna po natin ang pulitika. Bumoto ng 'Yes' para sa cityhood ng Meycauayan," Mayor Alarilla appealed.

MICROSOFT AGREEMENT
In its bid to standardize all worldwide subsidiaries, Iberpacific Professional Services recently forged an agreement with software leader Microsoft Philippines in cooperation with Microsoft partner Nexus Technologies. By signing up for the MS Select License Agreement, all transactions conducted by Iberpacific and its global subsidiaries are now hinged on a host of reliable and scalable Microsoft products suite and volume license benefits at a discount. Present in the contract signing were (seated, from left) Juan Chua, president of Nexus Technologies; Richard Francis, managing director of Microsoft Philippines; Jesus Carrasco Soto, chief technology officer of Soluziona Internacional (parent company of Iberpacific); and Mirko Moeller, VP for corporate services of Iberpacific. Witnessing the signing were (standing from left) Paolo Salonga, product manager of Nexus Technologies; Jess Santiago, large account manager of Microsoft Philippines; Raymond Huang, director for enterprise business group of Microsoft Philippines; and Alfonso Olondriz, VP sales for Nexus Technologies.

A public
paign of
pers

EDUCATING YAYAS
MCNAP officers (from left) Erlinda Ahorro, Gaudelia Andaya and Rose Lopez demonstrate to yayas the proper way of feeding, bathing and diapering babies during the free "Nanny Workshop" held recently at the SM Megatrade Conference Center. The nanny workshop, a joint public service of Pampers and the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines (MCNAP), was developed in recognition of the growing importance nannies play in ensuring the proper growth and development of Filipino children. The workshop also covered topics such as the stages of baby development, the importance of sleep, tips for common childhood illnesses and qualities of a good yaya.

Meycauayan Mayor Eduardo Alarilla proudly presents the bill converting the town into a city after its unanimous approval during a public hearing presided by Rep. Romeo Candazo (right) held last year. Others in photo are Bulacan Gov. Josie dela Cruz, Councilor Ting Alarilla and cityhood bill--author Rep. Angelito Sarmiento.

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eleventh Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9021]

"AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF MEYCAUAYAN, PROVINCE OF BULACAN INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF MEYCAUAYAN"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Charter of the City of Meycauayan."

Sec. 2. *The City of Meycauayan.* – The Municipality of Meycauayan shall be converted into a component city to be known as the City of Meycauayan, hereinafter referred to as the City, which shall comprise the present jurisdiction of the Municipality of Meycauayan, Bulacan Province. The territorial jurisdiction of the City shall be within the present metes and bounds of the Municipality of Meycauayan as follows:

Bounded on the SE., along lines I to 9 by the City of Caloocan.Cad 267, Caloocan Cadastre, along lines 9 to 47 by the Municipality of Valenzuela. Malinta Estate and Cad 336.Polo Cadastre: on the SW., along lines 47 to 68 by the Municipality of Obando, Cad 302-D,Obando Cadastre:on the NW., along lines 68 to 89 by the Municipality of Bulacan, Cad 303.Bulacan Cadastre; on the N., along lines 89 to 96 by the Municipality of Bocaue. Cad 382, Bocaue Cadastre along lines 96 to 296 to 1 by the Municipality of Marilao, Cad 336.Marilao Cadastre.

Beginning at a Point Marked "1" on plan being N60 O8E., 8708.36 m. from BLLM No. I, cad 337, Meycauayan Cadastre: thence

1-2	S20	01W	1181.26
2-3	S20	00W	118.98
3-4	S65	52W	765.88
4-5	S67	01W	319.19
5-6	S85	05W	320.92
6-7	S67	56W	516.37
7-8	S64	30W	526.00
8-9	S75	09W	366.58
9-10	N38	24W	423.24
10-11	S54	59W	532.52
11-12	S38	11W	170.84
12-13	S04	47E	464.71
13-14	S39	46W	388.02
14-15	S55	26W	311.84
15-16	S80	09W	449.31
16-17	S15	09W	791.97
17-18	S01	42W	875.58
18-19	S16	47E	276.78
19-20	S56	50W	240.39
20-21	S85	05W	319.65
21-22	N66	23W	252.67
22-23	S62	28W	600.80
23-24	N52	55W	319.37
24-25	S81	52W	394.76
25-26	S04	36W	191.73
26-27	S33	59W	416.22
27-28	N77	52W	167.67
28-29	N34	03W	1553.09
29-30	N24	54W	550.01
30-31	N04	52W	52.38
31-32	S82	15W	131.72
32-33	S64	46W	193.65
33-34	N82	10W	145.34
34-35	N60	14W	239.02
35-36	N10	58W	68.60
36-37	N33	30W	288.68
37-38	S84	40W	161.96
38-39	N79'	23W	191.05
39-40	S72	38W	118.34
40-41	S49	45W	106.93
41-42	S12	01W	160.80
42-43	S23	43W	164.62
43-44	S52	34W	90.03
44-45	N80	17W	149.36
45-46	N67	26W	205.74
46-47	N63	01W	170.66
47-48	N55	39W	122.42
48-49	N52	24W	254.81
49-50	S32	44W	120.16
50-51	N49	38W	582.57
51-52	N61	19W	144.19
52-53	N32	55W	286.89
53-54	N07	20W	258.79
54-55	N26	26W	147.91
55-56	N64	57W	126.96
56-57	N74	28W	235.16
57-58	N76	03W	393.10
58-59	N71	06W	202.33
59-60	N62	20W	273.51
60-61	N73	38W	353.61
61-62	N67	59W	310.95
62-63	S46	13W	98.94
63-64	S19	26W	276.51
64-65	N67	06W	124.74
65-66	N52	40W	113.67
66-67	N18	02W	291.64
67-68	N02	21E	169.49
68-69	N22	55E	154.06
69-70	N56	20E	150.59
70-71	N74	32E	133.56
71-72	S88	28E	256.46
72-73	S83	43E	313.95
73-74	S62	18E	159.17
74-75	S81	29E	293.44
75-76	N75	17E	71.29
76-77	N23	29E	104.23
77-78	N03	12W	135.16
78-79	N17	06W	147.94
79-80	N20	01W	212.82
80-81	N13	05W	190.77
81-82	N07	27E	151.41
82-83	N14	33E	148.95
83-84	N28	48E	173.46
84-85	N48	53E	105.73
85-86	N53	26E	106.65
86-87	N56	50E	140.51
87-88	N54	43E	145.39
88-89	N54	16E	65.52
89-90	S77	55E	164.62
90-91	S72	47E	132.04
91-92	S84	40E	105.18
92-93	S46	51E	118.90
93-94	S47	13E	121.99
94-95	S64	22E	125.42
95-96	N33	04E	139.53
96-97	S14	05E	100.17
97-98	N85	35E	120.91
98-99	N50	09E	81.17
99-100	N64	41E	69.92
100-101	N48	34E	79.40
101-102	N55	27E	48.02
102-103	S59	26E	58.55
103-104	S26	44E	73.28
104-105	S48	33E	45.22
105-106	N66	28E	71.85
106-107	N79	14E	62.17
107-108	S75	06E	70.66
108-109	S62	05E	63.67
109-110	S88	36E	67.38
110-111	N66	01E	100.69
111-112	N84	52E	61.54
112-113	S78	16E	87.39
113-114	S75	47E	97.41
114-115	S44	41E	67.94
115-116	S16	54W	64.63
116-117	S19	54W	87.96
117-118	S36	01W	62.29
118-119	S61	58W	58.01
119-120	S82	21W	65.87
120-121	S40	59W	49.93
121-122	S00	53W	52.11
122-123	S30	16E	46.95
123-124	S52	17E	44.79
124-125	S85	45E	59.37
125-126	N87	06E	59.32
126-127	S89	25E	55.67
127-128	S57	03E	41.96
128-129	S08	02W	64.39
129-130	S06	53W	97.75
130-131	S03	20E	76.91
131-132	S26	40E	43.01
132-133	S59	16E	76.34
133-134	S63	44E	62.76
134-135	S69	32E	62.00
135-136	S23	09W	136.25
136-137	S58	59W	116.36
137-138	S62	00W	70.74
138-139	S55	20W	97.11
139-140	S66	52W	109.18
140-141	S72	43W	110.14
141-142	s71	21W	68.01
142-143	S70	13W	99.08
143-144	S67	28W	84.42
144-145	S52	42W	32.09
145-146	S03	41W	131.44
146-147	S02	20W	65.76
147-148	S36	09E	136.26
148-149	S03	40W	66.23
149-150	S15	25W	60.47
150-151	S48	49E	42.41
151-152	N81	46E	84.23
152-153	N82	27E	103.37
153-154	S46	06E	125.45
154-155	S49	29E	162.06
155-156	S57	32E	191.90
156-157	N86	52E	137.45
157-158	S52	12E	68.49
158-159	S05	17W	207.96
159-160	S14	00E	148.41
160-161	S10	06E	67.11
161-162	S47	00E	117.79
162-163	N80	20E	105.03
163-164	N65	34E	148.81
164-165	S68	30E	171.33
165-166	S16	14E	92.06
166-167	S51	29E	100.65
167-168	S17	03E	143.53
168-169	S31	51E	135.35
169-170	N59	03E	166.33
170-171	N10	54E	118.03
171-172	N31	46E	142.41
172-173	N47	01E	279.07
173-174	N35	39E	247.99
174-175	N34	15E	344.82
175-176	N30	19E	696.25
176-177	S85	09E	59.21
177-178	S26	03E	118.11
178-179	N67	24E	200.38
179-180	N13	02E	110.86
180-181	S34	27E	394.15
181-182	N48	23E	770.26
182-183	N36	20E	555.43
183-184	N70	41E	422.25
184-185	N65	50E	701.65
185-186	N26	22E	485.10
186-187	N07	00E	106.53
187-188	N02	52W	95.76
188-189	N82	03E	821.36
189-190	N71	52E	165.00
190-191	N28	40W	287.41
191-192	N09	14E	307.76
192-193	N76	23E	250.60
193-194	N49	46E	195.00
194-195	S57	26E	219.83
195-196	N68	26E	128.06
196-197	N49	46E	110.00
197-198	N17	02W	76.16
198-199	N49	46E	50.00
199-200	S58	40E	126.49
200-201	N83	26E	72.11
201-202	N59	30E	177.55
202-203	N20	43E	205.91
203-204	N40	14W	150.00
204-205	N05	19E	108.38
205-206	S67	00E	169.88
206-207	S88	41E	100.51
207-208	N51	28E	78.38
208-209	N28	17E	107.19
209-210	N44	09E	57.80
210-211	S73	23E	47.71
211-212	S24	47E	144.41
212-213	S74	33E	60.05
213-214	N68	09E	84.23
214-215	N53	42E	110.09
215-216	S81	08E	106.54
216-217	S19	00W	66.71
217-218	S31	43E	101.24
218-219	S31	47E	13.51
219-220	N68	40E	28.25
220-221	N60	49E	247.85
221-222	S80	13E	17.45
222-223	S45	26E	48.40
223-224	S66	15E	9.46
224-225	N82	07E	20.60
225-226	N72	17E	112.79
226-227	N84	21E	66.07
227-228	S73	44E	11.22
228-229	S23	27E	17.50
229-230	S08	36E	139.70
230-231	S46	49E	140.17
231-232	S54	10E	88.78
232-233	S80	21E	44.73
233-234	N44	06E	123.53
234-235	N74	59E	78.01
235-236	S84	36E	47.42
236-237	S27	55E	32.69
237-238	S19	53W	149.96
238-239		DUE S	45.87
239-240	S27	26E	51.68
240-241	S83	47E	134.58
241-242	S18	51E	152.61
242-243	S09	14E	39.63
243-244	S48	11W	72.36
244-245	N89	07W	49.62
245-246	N44	11W	63.70
246-247	N69	44W	90.04
247-248	S51	54W	60.73
248-249	S03	47E	25.04
249-250	S00	44W	100.52
250-251	S24	25W	84.83
251-252	S72	48W	80.30
252-253	S69	12W	74.52
253-254	S13	11E	46.29
254-255	S50	00E	119.69
255-256	S46	03E	57.27
256-257	S06	51E	79.20
257-258	S40	10W	70.42
258-259	S26	27W	57.83
259-260	S47	09E	40.02
260-261	N82	26E	90.69
261-262	N77	24E	102.57
262-263	N73	32E	110.72
263-264	N88	42E	87.47
264-265	N03	03W	93.67
265-266	N46	51E	54.70
266-267	N80	24E	58.34
267-268	N48	44E	63.74
268-269	N43	26E	57.48
269-270	S51	54E	50.74
270-271	S41	07E	50.79
271-272	S17	13W	61.88
272-273	S35	32W	42.70
273-274	S16	11W	36.04
274-275	S40	23E	55.68
275-276	S76	02E	69.33
276-277	N81	14E	123.08
277-278	S86	36E	52.96
278-279	N81	37E	43.13
279-280	N06	24E	56.19
280-281	N08	29E	47.94
281-282	N51	14E	34.66
282-283	N83	45E	94.75
283-284	S49	44E	48.32
284-285	S32	13E	55.96
285-286	S36	17E	59.85
286-287	N74	43E	104.16
287-288	N72	19E	58.18
288-289	N53	09E	46.38
289-290	N03	48W	52.64
290-291	N15	06W	82.84
291-292	N22	41E	36.57
292-293	S86	46E	49.39
293-294	N86	34E	63.63
294-295	N82	20E	65.72
295-296	S66	37E	60.65
296-1	N72	10E	56.70

containing an area of three thousand two hundred ten hectares (3,210) has.). more or less.

The reference boundary computations are based on the approved Political Boundary Monuments of Meycauayan Cadastre, Marilao Cadastre, Bocaue Cadastre, Bulacan Cadastre, Obando Cadastre, Polo Cadastre, Malinta Cadastre, Caloocan Cadastre and NAMRIA Land Use Map. Points 1 to 9 are equivalent to PBM 13 to PBM 5, respectively, Cad 267, Caloocan Cadastre, Points 10 to 30 equivalent to MBM 33 to MBM 53, respectively, Cad 337, Meycauayan Cadastre: Point 97 is equivalent to MBM 1, Point 135 is equivalent to MBM 2; Point 177 is equivalent to MBM 7, Cad 337=MBM 14, Cad 336, Points 180 to 192 are equivalent to MBM 8 to MBM 20, Cad 337=MBM 13 to MBM 1, Cad 336, respectively; Point 205 is equivalent to MBM 21, Cad 337.

The foregoing provision shall be without prejudice to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of existing boundary disputes or cases involving questions of territorial jurisdiction between the City of Meycauayan and the adjoining local government units.

SEC. 3. *Corporate Powers of the City.* The City constitutes a political body corporate and as such is endowed with the attributes of perpetual succession and possessed of the powers which pertains to a municipal corporation to be exercised in conformity with the provision of this Charter. The City shall have the following corporate powers:

(a) To have a continuous succession in its corporate name;
(b) To sue and be sued;
(c) To have and use a corporate seal;
(d) To acquire, hold and convey real or personal property;
(e) To enter into any contracts and/or agreements; and
(f) To exercise such other powers, prerogatives or authority subject to the limitations provided in this Act or laws.

SEC. 4. *General Powers* . - The City shall have a common seal and may alter the same at pleasure. It shall exercise the powers to levy taxes; to close and open roads, streets, alleys, parks or squares; to take, purchase, receive, hold, lease, convey and dispose of real and personal property for the general interests of the City; to expropriate or condemn private property for public use; to contract and be contracted with, to sue and be sued; to prosecute and defend to final judgment and execution suits wherein the City is involved or interested in and to exercise all the powers as are granted to corporations or as hereinafter granted.

SEC. 5. *Liability for Damages.* - The City and its officials shall not be exempt from liability for death or injury to persons or damage to property.

SEC. 6. *Jurisdiction of the City.* - The jurisdiction of the City of Meycauayan, for police purposes only, shall be coextensive with its territorial jurisdiction and for the purposes of protecting and ensuring the purity of the water supply of the City, such police jurisdiction shall also extend over all the territory. within the drainage area of such water supply, or within one hundred meters (100 m.) of any reservoir, conduit, canal, aqueduct or pumping station used in connection with the city water service.

The regional trial courts and the city courts of the City of Meycauayan shall have a concurrent jurisdiction with the regional trial courts and the metropolitan trial courts or city or municipal trial courts of the adjoining municipalities to try crimes and misdemeanor commited within the said drainage area or within said space of one hundred meters (100 m.). The court first taking jurisdiction of such offense shall thereafter retain exclusive jurisdiction thereof. But any license that may be issued within said zone, area or space shall be granted by the proper authorities of the city or municipality concerned, and the fees arising therefrom shall accrue to the treasury of the said city or municipality.

ARTICLE II
CITY OFFICIALS IN GENERAL

Sec. 7. – *The Officials of the City of Meycauayan.* – (a) There shall be in the City: a city mayor, a city vice mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer and an assistant city treasurer, a city assessor and an assistant city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer; a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city social welfare and development officer, a city veterinarian, a city general services officer, a city agriculturist, a city cooperatives officer, and environment and natural resources officer;

(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city architect, a city information officer, and a city population officer;

(c) The City shall establish a city fire station to be headed by a city fire marshal, a city jail to be headed by a city jail warden, a city school division to be headed by a city school division superintendent, and a city prosecution service to be headed by a city prosecutor; and

(d) The City may:

(1) Maintain existing offices not mentioned in subsections (a) and (b) hereof;

(2) Create such other offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the city government; or

(3) Consolidate the functions of any office with those of another in the interest of efficiency and economy.

Unless otherwise provided herein, heads of departments and offices shall be appointed by the city mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all the sangguniang panlungsod members, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations. The sangguniang panlungsod shall act on the appointment within fifteen (15) days from the day of its submission, otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

ARTICLE III
THE CITY MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

SEC. 8. *The City Mayor* -- (A) The city mayor shall be the chief executive of the City. He shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the City.

No person shall be eligible for the position of city mayor unless at the time of the election:

(1) He is at least twenty-one (21) years of age;
(2) An actual resident of the City for at least one (1) year prior to his election; and
(3) A qualified voter therein.

He shall hold office for three (3) years, unless sooner removed, and shall receive a minimum monthly compensation corresponding to salary grade thirty (30) as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758 and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

(B) The city mayor, as the chief executive of the city government shall exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided by the Local Government Code of 1991 and other laws:

(1) Exercise those powers expressly granted to him by law, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate or incidental for the efficient and effective governance of the City and those which are essential to the promotion of general welfare:

(a) Determine the guidelines of city policies and be responsible to the sangguniang panlungsod for the program of government;

(b) Direct the formulation of the city development plan with the assistance of the city development council and upon approval thereof by the sangguniang panlungsod, implement the same;

(c) Present the program of government and propose policies and projects for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod at the opening of the regular session of the sangguniang panlungsod every calendar year and as often as may be deemed necessary as the general welfare of the inhabitants and the needs of the city government may require;

(d) Initiate and propose legislative measures to the sangguniang panlungsod and as often as may be deemed necessary, provide such information and data needed or requested by said sanggunian in the performance of its legislative functions;

(e) Appoint all officials and employees whose salaries and wages are wholly or mainly paid out of city funds and whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in this Act as well as those he may be authorized by law to appoint except those who are to be appointed by the vice mayor as provided in Section 9 hereof;

(f) Represent the City in all its business transactions and sign on its behalf all bonds, contracts, obligations, and such other documents with authority from the sangguniang panlungsod or pursuant to law or ordinance;

(g) Carry out such emergency measures as may be necessary during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(h) Determine the time, manner and place of payment of salaries or wages of the city officials and employees, in accordance with law or ordinance;

(i) Allocate and assign office space to the city officials and employees who, by law or ordinance, are entitled to such space in the city hall and other buildings owned or leased by the city government;

(j) Ensure that all executive officials and employees of the City faithfully discharge their duties and functions as provided by law and this Act and cause to be instituted administrative or judicial proceedings against any official or employee of the City who may have committed an offense in the performance of his official duties;

(k) Examine the books, records and other documents of all offices, officials, agents or employees of the City and, in aid of his executive powers and authority, require all national officials and employees stationed in or assigned to the City to make available to him such books, records and other documents in their custody except those classified by law as confidential;

(l) Furnish copies of executive orders issued by him to the office of the governor within seventy-two (72) hours after their issuance;

(m) Visit component barangays of the City at least once every six (6) months to deepen his understanding of problems and conditions, listen and give appropriate counsel to local officials and inhabitants of general laws and ordinances which especially concern them, and otherwise conduct visits and inspections to ensure that the governance of the City will improve the quality of life of the inhabitants;

(n) Act on leave applications of officials and employees appointed by him and the commutation of the monetary value of their leave credits in accordance with law;

(o) Authorize official trips of city officials and employees outside of the City for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days;

(p) Call upon any national official or employee stationed in or assigned to the City to advise him on matters affecting the City and to make recommendations thereon; coordinate with said officials and employees in the formulation and implementation of plans, programs and projects; and when appropriate, initiate and administrative or judicial action against a national government official or employee who may have committed an offense in the performance of his official duties while stationed in or assigned to the City;

(q) Authorize payment for medical care, necessary transportation, subsistence, hospital or medical fees of city officials and employees who are injured while in the performance of their official duties and functions, subject to availability of funds;

(r) Solemnize marriages any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding;

(s) Conduct an annual palarong panlungsod which shall feature traditional sports and disciplines included in national and international games, in coordination with the Department of Education Culture and Sports; and

(t) Submit to the provincial governor the following reports: an annual report containing a summary of all matters pertinent to the management, administration and development of the City and all information and data relative to its political, social and economic conditions; supplemental reports when unexpected events and situations arise at any time during the year, particularly when man-made or natural disasters or calamities affect the general welfare of the City.

(2) Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the governance of the City and in the exercise of its appropriate powers as well as implement all approved policies, programs, projects, services and activities of the City and in addition shall:

(a) Ensure that the acts of the City's component barangays and of its officials and employees are within the scope of their prescribed powers, duties and functions:

(b) Call conventions, conferences, seminars or meetings of elective or appointive officials of the City, including provincial and national officials and employees stationed in or assigned to the City, at such time and place and on such subject he may deem important for the promotion of the general welfare of the local government unit and its inhabitants;

(c) Issue such executive orders for the faithful and appropriate enforcement and execution of laws and ordinances;

(d) Be entitled to carry the necessary firearms within his territorial jurisdiction after the procurement of necessary permits/and/or license/s from duly constituted authorities;

(e) Act as the deputized representative of the National Police Commission, formulate the peace and order plan of the City, upon its approval, implement the same; and as such exercise general and operational control and supervision over the police forces in the City in accordance with Republic Act No. 6975; and

(f) Call upon the appropriate law enforcement agencies to suppress disorder, riot, lawless violence, rebellion or sedition, or apprehend violators of the law when public interest so requires and the city police forces are inadequate to cope with the situation or the violators.

(3) Initiate and maximize the generation of resources and revenues and apply the same to the implementation of development plans, program objectives and priorities, particularly the resources and revenues programmed for agro-industrial development and countryside growth and progress, and relative thereto, shall:

(a) Require each head of an office or department to prepare and submit an estimate of appropriations for the ensuing calendar year, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(b) Prepare and submit to the sanggunian for approval the executive and supplemental budgets of the City for the ensuing calendar year in the manner provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(c) Ensure that all taxes and other revenues of the City are collected and that city funds are applied to the payment of expenses and settlement of obligations of the City, in accordance with law and ordinance;

(d) Issue licenses and permits and suspend or revoke the same for any violation of the conditions upon which said licenses or permits had been issued pursuant to law or ordinance. This also includes the issuance of licenses and permits to gambling operations authorized by law subject to the ordinance of the sangguniang panlungsod;

(e) Issue permits without need of approval therefor from any national agency, for the holding of activities for any charitable or welfare purpose, excluding prohibited games or shows contrary to law, public policy and public morals;

(f) Require owners of illegally constructed houses, buildings or other structures to obtain the necessary permit, subject to such fines and penalties as may be imposed by law or ordinance, or to make necessary changes in the construction of the same when said construction violates any law or ordinance, or to order the demolition or removal of said house, building or structure within the period prescribed by law or ordinance;

(g) Adopt adequate measures to safeguard and conserve land, mineral, forest, marine and other resources of the City;

(h) Provide efficient and effective property and supply management in the City; and protect the funds, credits, rights and other properties of the City; and

(i) Institute or cause to be instituted administrative or judicial proceedings for violation of ordinances in the collection of taxes, fees or charges, and for the recovery of funds and property; and cause the City to be defended against all suits to ensure that its interests, resources and rights shall be adequately protected.

(4) Ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities and in addition thereto:

(a) Ensure that the construction and repair of roads and highways funded by the national government shall be, as far as practicable, carried out in a spatially contiguous manner and in coordination with the construction and repair of the roads and bridges of the City and of the province; and

(b) Coordinate the implementation of technical services, including public works and infrastructure programs, rendered by national offices and provincial office.

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 9. *The City Vice Mayor* - (a) There shall be a vice mayor who shall be elected in the same manner as the city mayor and shall at the time of his election possess the same qualifications as the city mayor. He shall hold office for three (3) years, unless sooner removed, and shall receive a monthly compensation corresponding to salary grade twenty-six (26) as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758 and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

(b) The City vice mayor shall exercise the following duties:

(1) Act as presiding officer of the sangguniang panlungsod and sign all warrants drawn on the city treasury for all expenditures appropriated for the operation of the sangguniang panlungsod;

(2) Subject to civil service law, rules and regulations, appoint all officials and employees including the secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod, and such employees of the individual members of the sangguniang panlungsod, except those whose manner of appointment is specifically provided for under existing laws;

(3) Assume the office of the city mayor for the unexpired term of the latter in the event of permanent vacancy;

(4) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the city mayor in cases of temporary vacancy; and

(5) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160; otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE IV
THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

Sec. 10 *Sangguniang Panlungsod* – The sangguniang panlungsod, the legislative body of the City, shall be composed of the city vice mayor as presiding officer, ten (10) regular sanggunian members, the president of the city chapter of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan and the sectoral representatives, as members.

(A) In addition thereto, there shall be three (3) sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and as shall be determined by the sangguniang panlungsod within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers; and one (1) from the other sectors, including the urban poor, indigenous cultural communities or disabled persons.

(B) The regular members of the sangguniang panlungsod and the sectoral representatives shall be elected in the manner as may be provided for by law. The elective members of the sangguniang panlungsod shall possess the qualifications as provided under Section 39 of Republic Act No. 7160.

(C) They shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(D) The sangguniang panlungsod shall:

(1) Approve ordinances and pass resolutions necessary for an efficient and effective city government, and relative hereto shall:

(a) Review all ordinances approved by the sangguniang barangay and executive orders issued by the punong barangay to determine whether these are within the scope of the prescribed powers of the sangguniang barangay and of the punong barangay;

(b) Maintain peace and order by enacting measures to prevent and suppress lawlessness, disorder, riot, violence, rebellion or sedition and impose penalties for the violation of said ordinances;

(c) Approve ordinances imposing a fine not exceeding Five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or an imprisonment for a period not exceeding one (1) year, or both at the discretion of the court, for violation of a city ordinance;

(d) Adopt measures to protect the inhabitants of the City on harmful effects of man-made or natural disasters and calamities, and to provide relief services and assistance for victims during and in the aftermath of said disasters or calamities and in their return to productive livelihood following said events;

(e) Enact ordinances intended to prevent, suppress and impose appropriate penalties for habitual drunkenness in public places, vagrancy, mendicancy, prostitution, establishment and maintenance of houses of ill repute, gambling and other prohibited games of chance, fraudulent devices and ways to obtain money or property, drug addiction, maintenance of drug dens, drug pushing, juvenile deliquency, the printing, distribution or exhibition of obscene or pornographic materials or publications, and such other activities inimical to the welfare and morals of the inhabitants of the City;

(f) Protect the environment. To this end, it may set aside, at least, ten percent (10%) of its development funds for the purpose of maintaining and enhancing the ecological balance of the City. It may also impose appropriate penalties for acts which endanger the environment, such as dynamite fishing and other forms of destructive fishing, illegal logging, smugging of logs, smugging of natural resources products and of endangered species of flora and fauna, slash-and-burn farming and such other activities which result in pollution, acceleration of eutrophication of rivers and lakes or of ecological imbalance;

(g) Subject to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 and the pertinent laws, determine the powers and duties of officials and employees of the City;

(h) Determine the positions and the salaries, wages, allowances and other emoluments and benefits of officials and employees paid wholly or mainly from city funds and provide for expenditures necessary for the proper conduct of programs, projects, services and activities of the city government;

(i) Authorize the payment of compensation to a qualified person not in the government service who fills up a temporary vacancy or grant honorarium to any qualified official or employee designated to fill a temporary vacancy in a concurrent capacity at the rate authorized by law;

(j) Provide a mechanism and the appropriate funds therefor, to ensure the safety and protection of all city government property, public documents, or records such as those relating to property, inventory, land ownership, record of births, marriages, deaths, assessments, taxation, accounts, business permits and such other records and documents of public interest in the offices and departments of the city government;

(k) When the finances of the city government allow, provide for additional allowances and other benefits to judges, prosecutors, public elementary and high school teachers, and other national government officials stationed in or assigned to the City;

(l) Provide legal assistance to city and barangay officials including the members of the city police who, in the performance of their official duties or on the occasion thereof, have to initiate judicial proceedings or defend themselves against legal actions. The sangguniang panlungsod may authorize the city mayor to engage the services of private counsel for this purpose; and

(m) Provide for group insurance or additional insurance coverage for all officials, including members of barangay tanod brigades and other service units, with public or private insurance companies, when the finances of the city government allows said coverage.

(2) Generate and maximize the use of resources and revenues for the development plans, program objectives and priorities of the City, with particular attention to agro-industrial development and city-wide growth and progress, and relative thereto, shall;

(a) Approve the annual and supplemental budgets of the city government and appropriate funds for specific programs, projects, services and activities of the City, or for other purposes not contrary to law in order to promote the general welfare of the City and its inhabitants;

(b) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991 and the applicable laws, and upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, enact ordinances levying taxes, fees and charges, prescribing the rates thereof for general and specific purposes and granting tax exemption, incentive or relief;

(c) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, and upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, authorize the city mayor to negotiate and contract loans and other forms of indebtedness;

(d) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991 and applicable laws, and upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, enact ordinances authorizing the floating of bonds or other instruments of indebtedness, for the purpose of raising funds to finance development projects;

(e) Appropriate funds for the construction and maintenance or the rental of buildings for the use of the City and upon the majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, authorize the city mayor to lease to private parties such public buildings held in a proprietary capacity, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations;

(f) Prescribe reasonable limits and restraints on the use of property within the jurisdiction of the City;

(g) Adopt a comprehensive land use plan for the City and that, the formulation, adoption or modification of said plan shall be in coordination within the approved provincial comprehensive land use plan;

(h) Reclassify lands within the jurisdiction of the City subject to the pertinent provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(i) Enact integrated zoning ordinance in consonance with the approved comprehensive land use plan, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations; establish fire limits or zones, particularly in populous centers, and regulate the construction , repair or modification of buildings within said fire limits or zones in accordance with the provisions of the Fire Code;

(j) Subject to national law, process and approve subdivision plans for residential, commercial or industrial purposes and other development purposes, and to collect processing fees and other charges, the proceeds of which shall accrue entirely to the City where approval of a national agency or office is required, said approval shall not be withheld for more than thirty (30) days from receipt of the application. Failure to act on the application within the period stated above shall be deemed as approved thereof;

(k) Subject to the provisions of Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, grant the exclusive privilege of constructing fish corrals or fish pens, or the taking or catching of bangus fry, prawn fry or kawag-kawag, or fry of any species of fish within the city waters;

(l) With the concurrence of at least two-thirds (2/3) of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, grant tax exemptions, incentives or relief to entities engaged in community growth-inducing industries, subject to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(m) Grant loans or provide grants to other local government units or to national, provincial and city charitable, benevolent or educational institutions: *Provided*, That said institutions are operated and maintained within the City;

(n) Regulate the numbering of residential, commercial and other buildings; and

(o) Regulate the inspection, weighing and measuring of articles of commerce.

(3) Subject to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991; enact ordinances granting franchises and authorizing the issuance of permits or licenses, upon such conditions and for such purposes intended to promote the general welfare of the inhabitants of the City pursuant to this legislative authority shall:

(a) Fix and impose reasonable fees and charges for all services rendered by the city government to private persons or entities;

(b) Regulate or fix license fees for any business or practice of profession within the City and the conditions under which the license for said business or practice of profession may be revoked and enact ordinances levying taxes thereon;

(c) Provide for and set the terms and conditions under which public utilities owned by the City shall be operated by the City government, and prescribe the conditions under which the same may be leased to private persons or entities, preferably cooperatives;

(d) Regulate the display of and fix the license fees for signs, signboards or billboards at the place or places where the profession or business advertised thereby is, in whole or in part, conducted;

(e) Any law to the contrary notwithstanding, authorize and license the establishment, operation and maintenance of cockpits, and regulate cockfighting and commercial breeding of gamecocks. The existing rights should not be prejudiced;

(f) Subject to the guidelines prescribed by the Department of Transportation and Communications, regulate the operation of tricycles and grant franchises for the operation thereof within the territorial jurisdiction of the City; and

(g) Upon approval by a majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, grant a franchise to any person, partnership, corporation or cooperative to do business within the City; establish, construct, operate and maintain ferries, wharves, markets or slaughterhouses; or undertake such other activities within the City as may be allowed by existing laws. The cooperatives shall be given preference in the grant of such franchise.

(4) Regulate activities relative to the use of land, buildings and structures within the City in order to promote the general welfare and for said purpose, shall;

(a) Declare, prevent or abate any nuisance

(b) With the concurrence of a majority of the members of the sangguniang panlungsod, a quorum being present, deny the entry of legalized gambling by ordinance into any part of the City or regulate its location in the City;

(c) Require that buildings and the premises thereof and any land within the City be kept and maintained in a sanitary condition; impose penalties for any violation thereof; or upon failure to comply with said requirement, have the work done at the expense of the owner, administrator or tenant concerned require the filling up of any land or premises to a grade necessary for proper sanitation;

(d) Regulate the disposal of clinical and other wastes from hospitals, clinics and other similar establishments;

(e) Regulate the establishment, operation and maintenance of cafes, restaurants, beerhouses, hotels, motels, inns, pension houses, lodging houses and other similar establishments, including tourist guides and transports;

(f) Regulate the sale, giving away or dispensing of any intoxicating malt, *vino*, mixed or fermented liquors at any retail outlets;

(g) Regulate the establishment and provide for the inspection of steam boilers or any heating device in buildings and the storage of inflammable and highly combustible materials within the City;

(h) Regulate the establishment, operation and maintenance of any entertainment or amusement facilities, including the theatrical performances, circuses, billiard pools, public dancing schools, public dance halls, sauna baths, massage parlors and other places for entertainment or amusement; regulate such other events or activities for amusement or entertainment, particularly those which tend to disturb the community or annoy the inhabitants, or require the suspension or suppression of the same; or prohibit certain forms of amusement or entertainment in order to protect the social and moral welfare of the community;

(i) Regulate the establishment, operation and maintenance of funeral parlors and the burial or cremation of the dead, subject to existing laws, rules and regulations; and

(j) Provide for the impounding of stray animals; regulate the keeping of animals in homes or as part of a business, and the slaughter, sale or disposition of the same; and adopt measures to prevent and penalize cruelty to animals.

(5) Approve ordinances which shall ensure the efficient and effective delivery of the basic services and facilities as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, and in addition to said services and facilities shall:

(a) Provide for the establishment, maintenance, protection and conservation of communal forest and watersheds, tree parks, greenbelts, mangroves and other similar forest development projects;

(b) Establish markets, slaughterhouses or animal corrals and authorize the operation thereof by the city government; and regulate the construction and operation of private markets, *talipapas* or other similar buildings and structures;

(c) Authorize the establishment, maintenance and operation by the city government of ferries, wharves and other structures intended to accelerate productivity related to marine and seashore or offshore activities;

(d) Regulate the preparation and sale of meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, fruits, fresh dairy products, and other foodstuffs for public consumption;

(e) Regulate the use of streets, avenues, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, parks and other public places and approve the construction, improvement, repair and maintenance of the same; establish bus and vehicle stops and terminals or regulate the use of the same by privately-owned vehicles which serve the public; regulate garages and operation of conveyances for hire; designate stands to be occupied by public vehicles when not in use; regulate the putting up of signs, signposts, awnings and awning posts on the streets; and provide for the lighting, cleaning and sprinkling of streets and public places;

(f) Regulate traffic on all streets and bridges; prohibit encroachments or obstacles thereon and when necessary in the interest of public welfare, authorize the removal of encroachments and illegal constructions in public places;

(g) Subject to existing laws, establish and provide for the maintenance, repair and operation of an efficient waterworks system to supply water for the inhabitants and to purify the source of the water supply; regulate the construction, maintenance, repair and use of hydrants, pumps, cisterns and reservoirs; protect the purity and quantity of the water supply of the City and for this purpose, extend the coverage of appropriate ordinances over all territory within the drainage area of said water supply and within one hundred meters (100 m.) of the reservoir, canal, conduit, aqueduct, pumping station or watershed used in connection with the water service; and regulate the consumption, use or wastage of water and fix and collect charges therefor;

(h) Regulate the drilling and excavation of the ground for the laying of water, gas, sewer, and other pipes and the construction repair and maintenance of public drains, sewers, cesspools, tunnels and similar structures; regulate the placing of poles and the use of crosswalks, curbs and gutters; adopt measures to ensure public safety against open canals, manholes, live wires and other similar hazards to life and property; and regulate the construction and use of private water closets, privies and other similar structures in buildings and homes;

(i) Regulate the placing, stringing, attaching, installing, repair and construction of all gas mains, electric telegraph and telephone wires, conduits, meters and other apparatus; and provide for the correction, condemnation or removal of the same when found to be dangerous to the welfare of the inhabitants;

(j) Subject to the availability of funds and existing laws, rules and regulations, establish and provide for the operation of vocational and technical schools and similar post secondary institutions and, with the approval of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and subject to existing laws on tuition fees, fix and collect reasonable tuition fees and other school charges in educational institutions supported by the city government;

(k) Establish a scholarship fund for poor but deserving students in schools located within its jurisdiction or for students residing within the City;

(l) Approve measures and adopt quarantine regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of diseases;

(m) Provide for an efficient and effective system of solid waste and garbage collection and disposal and prohibit littering and the placing or throwing of garbage, refuse and other filth and wastes;

(n) Provide for the care of disabled persons, paupers, the aged, the sick, persons of unsound mind, abandoned minors, juvenile delinquents, drug dependents, abused children and other needy and disadvantaged persons, particularly children and the youth below eighteen (18) years of age; and subject to availability of funds, establish and provide for the operation of centers and facilities for the said needy and disadvantaged persons;

(o) Establish and provide for the maintenance and improvement of jails and detention centers, institute a sound jail management program, and appropriate funds for the subsistence of detainees and convicted prisoners in the City;

(p) Establish a city council whose purpose is the promotion of culture and the arts, coordinate with government agencies and non-governmental organizations and, subject to the availability of funds, appropriate funds for the support and development of the same; and

(q) Establish a city council for the elderly which shall formulate policies and adopt measures mutually beneficial to the elderly and to the community; provide incentives for non-governmental agencies and entities and, subject to the availability of funds, appropriate funds to support programs and projects for the benefit of the elderly;

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE V
PROCESS OF LEGISLATION

SEC. 11. *Internal Rules of Procedure.* – **(a) On the first regular session following the election of its members and within ninety (90) days thereafter, the sangguniang panlungsod shall adopt or update its existing rules of procedure.**

(a) The rules of procedure shall provide for the following:

(1) The organization of the sanggunian and the election of its officers as well as the creation of standing committees which shall include, but shall not be limited to, the committees on appropriations, revenues, engineering and public works, education and health, women and family, human rights, youth and sports development, environmental protection, peace and order and traffic, and cooperatives; the general jurisdiction of each committee; and the election of the chairman and members of each committee.

(2) The order and calendar of business for each session;

(3) The legislative process;

(4) The parliamentary procedures which include the conduct of members during sessions;

(5) The discipline of members for disorderly behavior and absences without justifiable cause for four (4) consecutive sessions for which they may be censured, reprimanded or excluded from the session, suspended for not more than sixty (60) days, or expelled. The penalty of suspension or expulsion shall require the concurrence of at least two-thirds (2/3) vote of all the sanggunian members. A member convicted by final judgment to imprisonment of at least one (1) year for any crime involving moral turpitude shall be automatically expelled from the sanggunian; and

(6) Such other rules as the sanggunian may adopt.

SEC. 12. *Full Disclosure of Financial and Business Interests of Sangguniang Panlungsod Members.* – (a) Every sangguniang panlungsod members shall, upon assumption to office, make a full disclosure of his business and financial interests. He shall also disclose any business, financial, professional relationship or any relation by affinity or consanguinity within the fourth civil degree, which he may have with any person, firm or entity affected by any ordinance or resolution under consideration by the sanggunian of which he is a member, which relationship may result in conflict of interests. Such relationship shall include:

(1) Ownership of stock or capital or investment in the entity or firm to which the ordinance or resolution may apply; and

(2) Contracts or agreements with any person or entity which the ordinance or resolution under consideration may affect.

In the absence of a specific constitutional or statutory provisions applicable to this situation, "conflict of interest" refers in general to one where it may be reasonably deduced that a member of the sanggunian may not act in the public interest due to some private pecuniary or other personal considerations that may tend to affect his judgment to the prejudice of the service or the public.

(b) The disclosure required under this Act shall be made in writing and submitted to the secretary of the sanggunian or the secretary of the committee of which he is a member. The disclosure shall, in all cases, form part of the record of the proceedings and shall be made in the following manner:

(1) Disclosure shall be made before the member participates in the deliberations on the ordinance or resolution under consideration: *Provided*, That if the member did not participate during the deliberations, the disclosure shall be made before voting on the ordinance or resolution on second and third readings: and

(2) Disclosure shall be made when a member takes a position or makes a privilege speech on a matter that may affect the business interest, financial connection or professional relationship described herein.

SEC. 13. *Sessions.* – (a) On the first day of the session immediately following the election of its members, the sangguniang panlungsod shall, by resolution, fix the day, time, and place of its sessions. The minimum number of regular sessions shall be once a week for the sangguniang panlungsod and twice a month for the sangguniang barangay.

(b) When the public interest so demands, special sessions may be called by the city mayor or by a majority of the members of the sanggunian.

(c) All sanggunian sessions shall be open to the public unless a closed-door session is ordered by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members present, there being a quorum in the public interest or for reasons of security, decency or morality. No two (2) sessions, regular or special, may be held in a single day.

(d) In the case of special sessions of the sanggunian, a written notice to the members shall be served personally at the members' usual place of residence at least twenty-four (24) hours before the special session is held;

Unless otherwise concurred in by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the sanggunian members present, there being a quorum, no other matters may be considered at a special session except those stated in the notice.

(e) The sanggunian shall keep a journal and record of its proceedings which may be published upon resolution of the sangguniang panlungsod.

SEC. 14. *Quorum.* – (a) A majority of all the members of the sanggunian who have been elected and qualified shall constitute a quorum to transact official business. Should a question of quorum be raised during a session, the presiding officer shall immediately proceed to call the roll of the members and thereafter announce the results.

(b) Where there is no quorum, the presiding officer may declare a recess until such time as a quorum is constituted, or a majority of the members present may adjourn from day to day and may compel the immediate attendance of any member absent without justifiable cause by designating a member of the sangguniang, to be assisted by a member or members of the police force assigned in the territorial jurisdiction of the City of Meycauayan, to arrest the absent member and present him at the session.

(c) If there is still no quorum despite the enforcement of the immediately preceding subsection, no business shall be transacted. The presiding officer, upon proper motion duly approved by the members present, shall then declare the session adjourned for lack of quorum.

SEC.15. *Approval of Ordinances.* – (a) Every ordinance enacted by the sangguniang panlungsod shall be presented to the city mayor. If the city mayor approves the same, he shall affix his signature on each and every page thereof; otherwise , he shall veto it and return the same with his objections to the sanggunian, which may proceed to reconsider the same. The sanggunian may override the veto of the city mayor by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members, thereby making the ordinance or resolution effective for all legal intents and purposes.

(b) The veto shall be communicated by the city mayor to the sanggunian within ten (10) days; otherwise, the ordinance shall be deemed approved as if he had signed it.

SEC. 16. *Veto Power of the City Mayor.* -- (a) The city mayor may veto any ordinance of the sangguniang panlungsod on the ground that it is *ultra vires* or prejudicial to the public welfare, stating his reasons thereof in writing;

(b) The city mayor shall have the power to veto any particular item or items of an appropriations ordinance, an ordinance or resolution adopting a local development plan, any public investment program or an ordinance directing the payment of money or creating liability. In such case, the veto shall not affect the item or items which are not objected to. The vetoed item or items shall not take effect unless the sangguniang panlungsod overrides the veto in the manner herein provided; otherwise, the item or items in the appropriations ordinance of the previous year corresponding to those vetoed, if any, shall be deemed enacted;

(c) The city mayor may veto an ordinance or resolution only once. The sanggunian may override the veto of the city mayor by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all its members, thereby making the ordinance effective even without the approval of the city mayor.

SEC. 17. *Review of City Ordinances by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.* – (a) Within three (3) days after approval, the secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod shall forward to the sangguniang panlalawigan for review, copies of approved ordinances and the resolutions approving the local development plans and public investment programs formulated by the local development councils.

(b) Within thirty (30) days after receipt of copies of such ordinances and resolutions, the sangguniang panlalawigan shall examine the documents or transmit them to the provincial attorney or the provincial prosecutor for prompt examination. The provincial attorney or the provincial prosecutor shall, within a period of ten (10) days from receipt of the documents; inform the sangguniang panlalawigan in writing of his comments or recommendations which may be considered by the sangguniang panlalawigan in making its decision.

(c) If the sangguniang panlalawigan finds that such an ordinance or resolution is beyond the power conferred upon the sangguniang panlungsod concerned, it shall declare such ordinance or resolution invalid in whole or in part. The sangguniang panlalawigan shall enter its action in the minutes and shall advise the corresponding city authorities of the action it has taken.

(d) If no action has been taken by the sangguniang panlalawigan within thirty (30) days after submission of such an ordinance or resolution, the same shall be presumed consistent with law and therefore valid.

SEC. 18. *Review of Barangay Ordinances by the Sangguniang Panlungsod.* -- (a) Within ten (10) days after its enactment, the sangguniang barangay shall furnish copies of all barangay ordinances to the sangguniang panlungsod for review as to whether the ordinance is consistent with law and city ordinances;

(b) If the sangguniang panlungsod fails to take action on barangay ordinances within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof, the same shall be deemed approved;

(c) If the sangguniang panlungsod finds the barangay ordinances inconsistent with law or city ordinances, the sangguniang panlungsod shall, within thirty (30) days from receipt thereof, return the same with its comments and recommendations to the sangguniang barangay concerned for adjustment, amendment or modification; in which case, the effectivity of the barangay ordinance is suspended until such time as the revision called for is effected.

SEC. 19. – *Enforcement of Disapproved Ordinances or Resolutions.* – Any attempt to enforce any ordinance or any resolution approving the local development plan and public investment program, after the disapproval thereof, shall be sufficient ground for the suspension or dismissal of the official or employee concerned.

SEC. 20. – *Effectivity of Ordinances or Resolutions.* -- (a) Unless otherwise stated in the ordinance or the resolution approving the local development plan and the public investment program, the same shall take effect after ten (10) from the date a copy thereof is posted in a bulletin board at the entrance of the City Hall of Meycauayan, and in at least two (2) other conspicuous places in the City of Meycauayan.

(b) The secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod shall cause the posting of an ordinance or resolution in the bulletin board at the entrance of the City Hall of Meycauayan and in at least two (2) conspicuous places in the City of Meycauayan not later than five (5) days after approval thereof;

The text of the ordinance or resolution shall be disseminated and posted in Filipino or English and in the language or dialect understood by the majority of the people in the City and the secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod shall record such fact in a book kept for the purpose, stating the dates of approval and posting;

(c) The main features of the ordinance or resolution duly enacted or adopted shall, in addition to being posted, be published once in a local newspaper of general circulation within the City. In the absence thereof the ordinance or resolution shall be published in any newspaper of general circulation. The gist of all ordinances with penal sanctions shall also be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

ARTICLE VI
DISQUALIFICATIONS AND SUCCESSION FOR ELECTIVE CITY OFFICIALS .

SEC. 21. *Disqualifications for Elective City Officials.* – The following persons are not qualified from running for any elective position in the City:

(a) Those sentenced by final judgment for an offense involving moral turpitude or an offense punishable by one (1) year or more of imprisonment within two (2) years after serving sentence;

(b) Those removed from office as a result of an administrative case;

(c) Those convicted by final judgment for violating the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines;

(d) Those with dual citizenship;

(e) Fugitives from justice in criminal or nonpolitical cases here and abroad;

(f) Permanent residents in a foreign country or those who have acquired the right to reside abroad and continue to avail of the same right after the effectivity of the Local Government Code of 1991; and

(g) The insane or feeble-minded.

SEC. 22. *Permanent Vacancy in the Office of the City Mayor and City Vice Mayor.* – (a) If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city mayor, the city vice mayor concerned shall become the city mayor. If the vice mayor refuses to assume the position of city mayor the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member shall become the city mayor. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city vice mayor, the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member or in case of his permanent incapacity, the second highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member shall become the city mayor or city vice mayor, as the case may be. Subsequent vacancies in said offices shall be filled automatically by the other sanggunian members according to their ranking as defined herein.

(b) A tie between or among the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod members shall be resolved by drawing lots.

(c) The successors as defined herein shall serve only the unexpired terms of their predecessors.

For purposes of this Act, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective local official fills a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, dies, is removed from office, voluntarily resigns or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of his office.

For purposes of succession as provided in this Act, ranking in the sanggunian shall be determined on the basis of the proportion of votes obtained by each winning candidate to the total number of registered voters in the City in the immediately preceding local election.

SEC. 23. *Permanent Vacancies in the Sanggunian.* – (a) Permanent vacancies in the sangguniang panlungsod where automatic succession as provided above does not apply shall be filled by appointments in the following manner:

(1) The provincial governor shall make the aforesaid appointments;

(2) Only the nominee of the political party under which the sanggunian member concerned had been elected shall be appointed in the manner herein provided. The appointee shall come from the political party as that of the sanggunian member who caused the vacancy and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant office. In the appointment herein mentioned, a nomination and a certificate of membership of the appointee from the highest official of the political party concerned are conditions *sine qua non*, and any appointment without such nomination and certification shall be null and void *ab initio* and shall be a ground for administrative action against the official responsible therefor;

(3) In case the permanent vacancy is caused by a sanggunian member who does not belong to any political party, the city mayor shall, upon recommendation of the sangguniang panlungsod, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy; and

(4) In case of vacancy in the representation of the youth and the barangay in the sangguniang panlungsod, said vacancy shall be filled automatically by the official next in rank of the organization concerned.

SEC. 24. *Temporary Vacancy in the Office of the City Mayor.* – (a) When the city is temporarily incapacitated to perform his duties for physical or legal reasons such as, but not limited to, leave of absence, travel abroad and suspension from office, the city vice mayor shall automatically exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the city mayor, except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees which can only be exercised if the period of temporary incapacity exceeds thirty (30) working days.

(b) Said temporary incapacity shall terminate upon submission to the sangguniang panlungsod of a written declaration by the city mayor that he has reported back to office. In case where the temporary incapacity is due to legal cause, the city mayor shall also submit necessary documents showing the said legal cause no longer exists.

(c) When the city mayor is traveling within the country but outside territorial jurisdiction for a period not exceeding three (3) consecutive days, he may designate in writing the officer-in-charge of his office. Such authorization shall specify the powers and functions that the local official concerned shall exercise in the absence of the city mayor except the power to appoint, suspend or dismiss employees.

(d) In the event, however, that the city mayor fails or refuses to issue such authorization, the city vice mayor shall have the right to assume the powers, duties and functions of the said office on the fourth day of absence of the city mayor, subject to the limitations provided in subsection (c) hereof

(e) Except as provided above, the city mayor shall in no case authorize any local official to assume the powers, duties, and functions of the office, other than the city vice mayor or the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member as the case may be.

ARTICLE VII
THE APPOINTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE CITY; THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES

SEC. 25. *The Secretary of the Sangguniang Panlungsod.* – (a) There shall be a secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod who shall be a career official with the rank and salary equal to a head of a department or office.

(b) No person shall be appointed secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a master's degree preferably in law, commerce or public administration from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent.

(c) The secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(d) The secretary of the sangguniang panlungsod shall take charge of the office of the sangguniang panlungsod , and shall:

(1) Attend meetings of the sangguniang panlungsod and keep a journal of its proceedings:

(2) Keep the seal of the City and affix the same with his signature to all ordinances, resolutions, and other official acts of the sangguniang panlungsod and present the same to the presiding officer for his signature;

(3) Forward to the city mayor, for approval copies of ordinances enacted by the sangguniang panlungsod duly certified by the presiding officer;

(4) Forward to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) copies of the appropriation ordinances passed by the sangguniang panlungsod as provided for under Section 326, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(5) Forward to the sangguniang panlalawigan copies of duly approved ordinances in the manner provided in Sections 56 and 57 under Book I of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(6) Furnish, upon request of any interested party, certified copies of records of public character in his custody, upon payment to the city treasurer of such fees as may be prescribed by ordinance;

(7) Record in a book kept for the purpose, all ordinances and resolutions enacted or adopted by the sangguniang panlungsod, with the dates of passage and publication thereof;

(8) Keep his office and all nonconfidential records therein open to the public during usual business hours;

(9) Translate into the dialect used by the majority of the inhabitants all ordinances and resolutions immediately after their approval and cause the publication of the same together with the original version in the manner provided under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(10) Take custody of the local archives and where applicable, the local library and annually account for the same; and

(11) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance relative to his position.

SEC. 26. *The City Treasurer.* – (a) The city treasurer shall be appointed by the Secretary of Finance from a list of at least three (3) ranking eligible recommendees of the city mayor, subject to the civil service law, rules and regulations;

(b) The city treasurer shall be under the administrative supervision of the city mayor, to whom he shall report regularly on the tax collection efforts of the City;

(c) No person shall be appointed treasurer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in commerce, public administration or law from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years;

(d) The city treasurer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(e) The city treasurer shall take charge of the city treasury office and shall:

(1) Advise the city mayor, the sangguniang panlungsod and other local government and national officials concerned regarding disposition of local government funds and on such other matters relative to public finance;

(2) Take custody and exercise proper management of the funds of the City;

(3) Take charge of the disbursement of all funds of the City and such other funds the custody of which may be entrusted to him by law or other competent authority;

(4) Inspect private commercial and industrial establishments within the jurisdiction of the City in relation to the implementation of tax ordinances pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(5) Maintain and update the tax information system of the City; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 27. *The Assistant City Treasurer.* – (a) The assistant city treasurer may be appointed by the Secretary of Finance from a list of at least three (3) ranking eligible recommendees of the city mayor, subject to civil service law rules and regulations.

(b) No person shall be appointed assistant city treasurer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in commerce, public administration or law from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired at least three (3) years experience in treasury accounting.

(c) The assistant city treasurer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(d) The assistant city treasurer shall assist the city treasurer and perform such other duties as the latter may assign him. He shall have authority to administer oaths concerning notices and notifications to those delinquent in the payment of the real property tax and concerning official matters relating to the accounts of the city treasurer or otherwise arising from the offices of the city treasurer and the city assessor.

SEC. 28. *The City Assessor.* – (a) The city assessor must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in civil or mechanical engineering, commerce, or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in real property assessment work or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city assessor shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city assessor shall take charge of the city assessor's office, and shall:

(1) Ensure that all laws and policies governing the appraisal and assessment of real properties for taxation purposes are properly executed;

(2) Initiate review and recommend changes in policies and objectives, plans and programs, techniques, procedures and practices in the evaluation and assessment of real properties for taxation purposes;

(3) Establish a systematic method of real property assessment;

(4) Install and maintain real property identification and accounting systems;

(5) Prepare, install and maintain a system of tax mapping, showing graphically all properties subject to assessment and gather all data concerning the same;

(6) Conduct frequent physical surveys to verify and determine whether all real properties within the City are properly listed in the assessment rolls;

(7) Exercise the functions of appraisal and assessment primarily for taxation purposes of all real properties in the City;

(8) Prepare schedule of the fair market value of the different classes of real properties in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Code 1991:

(9) Issue, upon request of any interested party, certified copies of assessment records of real properties and all other records relative to its assessment upon payment of a service charge or fee to the city treasurer:

(10) Submit every semester a report of all assessments, as well as cancellations and modifications of assessments to the city mayor and the sanggunian panlungsod; and

(11) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 29. *The Assistant City Assessor.* – (a) The assistant city assessor must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in civil or mechanical engineering, commerce or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in assessment or in any related field for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The assistant city assessor shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The assistant city assessor shall assist the city assessor and perform such other duties as the latter may assign to him. He shall have the authority to administer oaths and all declarations of real property for purposes of assessment.

SEC.30. *The City Accountant.* -- (a) The city accountant must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, and a certified public accountant. He must have acquired experience in the treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city accountant shall receive such compensation emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city accountant shall take charge of both the office of the accounting and internal audit services, and shall:

(1) Install and maintain an internal audit system in the city;

(2) Prepare and submit financial statements to the city mayor and the sangguniang panlungsod;

(3) Appraise the sangguniang panlungsod and other officials on the financial condition and operations of the city;

(4) Certify the availability of budgetary allotment to which expenditures and obligations may be properly charged;

(5) Review supporting documents before preparations of vouchers to determine the completeness of requirements;

(6) Prepare statements of cash advances, liquidations, salaries, allowances, reimbursements and remittances pertaining to the City;

(7) Prepare statements of journal vouchers and liquidation of the same and other adjustments related thereto;

(8) Post individual disbursements to the subsidiary ledger and index cards;

(9) Maintain individual ledgers for officials and employees of the City pertaining to payroll and deductions;

(10) Record and post in index cards details of purchased furnitures, fixtures and equipments, including disposal thereof, if any;

(11) Account for all issued request for obligations and maintain and keep all records and reports related thereto;

(12) Prepare journals and the analyses of obligations and maintain and keep all records and report related thereto: and

(13) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 31. *The City Budget Officer.* – (a) The city budget officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in accounting, economics, public administration, or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in government budgeting or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city budget officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city budget officer shall take charge of the city budget office, and shall:

(1) Prepare forms, orders and circulars embodying instructions on budgetary and appropriation matters for the signature of the city mayor;

(2) Review and consolidate the budget proposals of different departments and offices of the City;

(3) Assist the city mayor in the preparation of the budget and during budget hearings;

(4) Study and evaluate budgetary implications of proposed legislation and submit comments and recommendation thereon;

(5) Submit periodic budgetary reports to the Department of Budget and Management;

(6) Coordinate with the city treasurer, the city accountant and the city planning and development coordinator for the purpose of budgeting;

(7) Assist the sangguniang panlungsod in reviewing the approved budgets of component local government units;

(8) Coordinate with the city planning and development coordinator in the formulation of the development plan of the City; and

(9) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 32. *The City Planning and Development Coordinator.* -- (a) The city planning and development coordinator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in urban planning, development studies, economics, public administration, or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in development planning or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city planning and development coordinator shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowance as may be determined by law.

(c) The city planning and development coordinator shall take charge of the city planning and development coordinating office, and shall;

(1) Formulate integrated economic, social, physical and other development plans and policies for consideration of the City;

(2) Conduct continuing studies, researches and training programs necessary to evolve plans and programs for implementation;

(3) Integrate and coordinate all sectoral plans and studies undertaken by the different functional groups or agencies;

(4) Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the different development programs, projects and activities in the City in accordance with the approved development plan;

(5) Prepare comprehensive plans and other development planning documents for the consideration of the local development council;

(6) Analyze the income and expenditures patterns, and formulate and recommend fiscal plans and politics for consideration of the finance committee of the City as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(7) Promote people's participation in development planning within the City;

(8) Exercise supervision and control over the secretariat of the Local Development Council; and

(9) Perform such other functions and duties and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec 33. *The City Engineer.* – (a) The city engineer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character and a licensed civil engineer. He must have acquired experience in the practice of his profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city engineer shall received such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city engineer shall take charge of the city engineering office, and shall;

(1) Initiate, review and recommend changes in policies and objectives, plans and programs, techniques, procedures and practices in infrastructure development and public works in general of the City;

(2) Advise the city mayor on infrastructure, public works and other engineering matters;

(3) Administer, coordinate, supervise and control the construction, maintenance, improvement and repair of roads, bridges, other engineering and public works projects of the City;

(4) Provide engineering services to the City, including investigation and survey, engineering designs, feasibility studies and project management; and

(5) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec 34. *The City Health Officer* – (A) The city health officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, and a licensed medical practitioner. He must have acquired experience in the practice of his profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city health officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city health officer shall take charge of the office of the city health services, and shall;

(1) Supervise the personnel and staff of said office, formulate program implementation guidelines and rules and regulations for the operation of the said office for the approval of the city mayor in order to assist him in the efficient, effective and economical implementation of health service program geared to implement health-related projects and activities;

(2) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city in carrying out activities to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to health services provided under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with health programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian panlungsod is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(4) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city health officer shall;

(a) Formulate and implement policies, plans and projects to promote the health of the people in the City;

(b) Advise the city mayor and the sangguniang panlungsod on matters pertaining to health;

(c) Execute and enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations relating to public health;

(d) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod through the Local Health Board the passage of such ordinances as he may deem necessary for the preservation of public health;

(e) Recommend the prosecution of any violation of sanitary laws, ordinances or regulations;

(f) Direct the sanitary inspection of all business establishments selling food items or providing accommodation such as hotels, motels, lodging houses, pension houses, and the like, in accordance with the Sanitation Code;

(g) Conduct health information campaigns and render health intelligence services; and

(h) Coordinate with other government agencies and nongovernmental organizations involved in the promotion and deliver of health services.

(5) Be in the frontline of the delivery of health services, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 35. *The City Civil Registrar.* – (A) The city civil registrar must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in civil registry work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The City civil registrar shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The City civil registrar shall be responsible for the civil registration program in the City of Meycauayan, pursuant to the Civil Registry Law, the Civil Code, and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations issued to implement them.

(D) The city civil registrar shall take charge of the office of the city civil registry, and shall:

(1) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the management and administration-related programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide for under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(2) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the civil registrar shall;

(a) Accept all registrable documents and judicial decrees affecting the civil status of persons;

(b) File, keep and preserve in a secure place the books required by law;

(c) Transcribe and enter immediately upon receipt all registrable documents and judicial decrees affecting the civil status of person in the appropriate civil registry books;

(d) Transmit to the Office of the Civil Registrar-General, within the prescribed period, duplicate copies of registered documents required by law;

(e) Issue certified transcripts or copies of any certificate or registered documents upon payment of the required fees to the treasurer;

(f) Receive applications for the issuance of a marriage license and, after determining that the requirements and supporting certificates and publication thereof for the prescribed period have been complied with, issue the license upon payment of the authorized fee to the treasurer; and

(g) Coordinate with the National Statistics Office in conducting educational campaigns for vital registration and assist in the preparation of demographic and other statistics for the City of Meycauayan.

(3) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 36. *The City Administrator.* – (A) The city administrator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in public administration, law, or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in management and administrative work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The term of administrator is coterminous with that of his appointing authority.

(C) The city administrator shall take charge of the city administrator's office, and shall:

(1) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the management and administration-related programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide for under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(2) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city administrator shall:

(a) Assist in the coordination of the work of all the officials of the City under the supervision, direction and control of the city mayor, and for this purpose, he may convene the chiefs of offices and other officials of the City;

(b) Establish and maintain a sound personnel program for the City designed to promote career development and uphold the merit principle in the local government service; and

(c) Conduct a continuing organizational development of the City with the end in view of instituting effective administrative reforms.

(3) Be in the frontline of the delivery of administrative support services, particularly those related to the situations during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(4) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to the management and administration of the City; and

(5) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 37. *The City Legal Officer.* – (A) The city legal officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, and a member of the Philippine Bar, He must have practiced his profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The term of the legal officer shall be coterminous with that of his appointing authority.

(C) The city legal officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(D) The city legal officer, the chief legal counsel of the City, shall take charge of the office of the city legal service, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide legal assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with programs and projects related to legal services which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city legal officer shall:

(a) Represent the City in all civil actions and special proceedings wherein the City or any official thereof, in his official capacity, is a party: Provided, That, in actions or proceedings where the City is a party adverse to the provincial government or to another component city or municipality, a special legal officer may be employed to represent the adverse party;

(b) When required by the city mayor or sanggunian, draft ordinances, contracts bonds, leases and other instruments involving any interest of the City and provide comments and recommendations on any instruments already drawn;

(c) Render his opinion in writing on any question of law when requested to do so by the city mayor or sanggunian;

(d) Investigate or cause to be investigated any local official or employee for administrative neglect or misconduct in office and recommend the appropriate action to the city mayor or sanggunian, as the case may be;

(e) When directed by the city mayor or sanggunian, initiate and prosecute, in the interest of the City, any civil action on any bond, lease or other contract upon any breach or violation thereof: and

(f) Review and submit recommendations or ordinances approved and executive orders issued by component units.

(4) Recommend measures to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all maters related to upholding the rule of law;

(5) Be in the frontline of protecting human rights and prosecuting any violations thereof, particularly those which occur during and in the aftermath of man-made or natural disasters and calamities; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 38. *The City Social Welfare and Development Officer.* – (a) The city social welfare and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a duly licensed social worker or a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology, or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(b) The city social welfare and development officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(c) The city social welfare and development officer shall take charge of the office of social welfare and development, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the approval of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to social welfare and development services;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with social welfare programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services particularly those which have to do with immediate relief and assistance during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(4) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all other matters related to social welfare and development services which will improve the livelihood and living conditions of the inhabitants; and

(5) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec 39. *The City Veterinarian.* – (A) The city veterinarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, and a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. He must have practiced his profession for at least three (3) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city veterinarian shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city veterinarian shall take charge of the office of veterinary services, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with veterinary-related activities which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city veterinarian shall:

(a) Advise the city mayor on all matters pertaining to the slaughter of animals for human consumption and the regulation of slaughterhouse

(b) Regulate the keeping of domestic animals;

(c) Regulate and inspect poultry, milk and dairy products for public consumption;

(d) Enforce all laws and regulations for the prevention of cruelty of animals; and

(e) Take the necessary measures to eradicate, prevent or cure all forms of animal diseases.

(4) Be in the frontline of veterinary-related activities, such as the outbreak of highly contagious and deadly diseases and in situations resulting in the depletion of animals for work and in human consumption, particularly those arising from and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to veterinary services which will increase the number and improve the quality of livestock, poultry and other domestic animals used for work or human consumption; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 40. *The City General Services Officer.* – (A) The city general services officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in public administration, business administration or management from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in general services, including management of supply, solid waste disposal and general sanitation for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city general services officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city general services officer shall take charge of the office of the general services, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities which require general services expertise and technical support services;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the general services supportive of the welfare of the inhabitants of the City which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city general services officer shall;

(a) Take custody of and be accountable for all properties, real or personal, owned by the City, and those granted to it in the form of donation, reparation, assistance and counterpart of joint projects;

(b) With the approval of the city mayor, assign building or land space to local officials or other public officials, who by law, are entitled to space;

(c) Recommend to the city mayor the reasonable rental rates for local government properties, whether real or personal, which will be leased to public or private entities by the local government;

(d) Recommend to the city mayor reasonable rental rates of private properties which may be leased for the official use of the City;

(e) Maintain and supervise janitorial, security, landscaping and other related services in all local government public buildings and other real property, whether owned or leased by the City;

(f) Collate and disseminate information regarding prices, shipping and other costs of supplies and other items commonly used by the City;

(g) Perform archival and record management with respect to records of offices and department of the City; and

(h) Perform all other functions pertaining to supply and property management heretofore performed by the local government treasurer and enforce policies on records creation, maintenance and disposal.

(4) Be in the frontline of general services-related activities, such as the possible and imminent destruction or damage to records, supplies, properties, and structure materials or debris, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to general services; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 41. *The City Environment and Natural Resources Officer.* – (A) The city environment and natural resources officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture, or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in the environment and natural resources management, conservation and utilization work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city environment and natural resources officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowance as may be determined by law.

(C) The city environment and natural resources officer shall take charge of the office of the environment and natural resources, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and to provide assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to environment and natural resources services as provided for under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with environment and natural resources programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city environment and natural resources officer shall:

(a) Establish, maintain, protect and preserve communal forests, watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts, commercial forests and similar forest projects like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects;

(b) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and render assistance for natural resources-related conservation and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance;

(c) Promote the small-scale mining and utilization of mineral resources, particularly mining of gold; and

(d) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

(4) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services concerning the environment and natural resources particularly in the renewal and rehabilitation of the environment during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to the protection, conservation, maximum utilization, application of appropriate technology and other matters related to the environment and natural resources; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 42. *The City Architect.* – (A) The city architect must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, and a duly licensed architect. He must have practiced his profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city architect shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city architect shall take charge of the office on the architectural planning and design, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to architectural planning and design;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with architectural planning and design programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) In Addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the architect shall;

(a) Prepare and recommend for consideration of the sanggunian the architectural plan and design for the City or a part thereof, including the renewal of slums and blighted areas, land reclamation activities, the greening of land, and appropriate planning of marine and foreshore areas;

(b) Review and recommend for appropriate action of the sanggunian or mayor as the case may be, the architectural plans and design submitted by governmental and nongovernmental entities or individuals, particularly those for undeveloped, underdeveloped and poorly designed areas; and

(c) Coordinate with government and nongovernment entities and individuals involved in the aesthetics and the maximum utilization of the land and water within the jurisdiction of the City, compatible with environmental integrity and ecological balance.

(4) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services involving architectural planning and design, particularly those related to the redesigning of spatial distribution of basic facilities and physical structures during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to architectural planning and design as it relates to the total socioeconomic development of the City; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 43. *The City Information Officer.* – (A) The city information officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in journalism, mass communications, or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have experience in writing articles and research papers, or writing for print, television or broadcast media for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city information officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city information officer shall take charge of the office on public information, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in providing the information and research data required for the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities so that the public becomes aware of said services and may fully avail of the same;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with public information and research data to support programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city information officer shall;

(a) Provide relevant, adequate and timely information to the City and its residents;

(b) Furnish information and data on the City to government agencies or offices as may be required by law or ordinance; and nongovernmental organizations to be furnished to said agencies and organizations; and

(c) Maintain effective liaison with the various sectors of the community on matters and issues that affect the livelihood and the quality of life of the inhabitants and encourage support for programs of the local and national government.

(4) Be in the frontline in providing information during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities, with special attention to the victims thereof, to help minimize injuries and casualties during and after the emergency, and to accelerate relief and rehabilitation;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all matters relative to public information and research data as it relates to the total socioeconomic development of the City; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 44. *The City Cooperatives Officer.* – (A) The city cooperatives officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in business administration with special training on cooperatives or any related course from a recognized college or university; and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have experience on cooperative development for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city cooperatives officer shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city cooperatives officer shall take charge of the office for the development of cooperatives; and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of facilities through the development of cooperatives, and in providing access to such services and facilities;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the integration of cooperatives principles and methods in programs which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide for under the Local Government Code of 1991;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city cooperatives officer shall:

(a) Assist in the organization of cooperatives;

(b) Provide technical and other forms of assistance to existing cooperatives to enhance their viability as an economic enterprise and social organization; and

(c) Assist cooperatives in establishing linkages with government agencies and nongovernment organizations involved in the promotion and integration of the concept of cooperatives in the livelihood of the people and other community activities.

(4) Be in the frontline of cooperative organization, rehabilitation or viability enhancement, particularly during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities, to aid in their survival and, if necessary, subsequent rehabilitation;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all other matters relative to cooperatives development and viability enhancement which will improve the livelihood and quality of life of the inhabitants; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 45. *The City Population Officer.* – (A) The city population officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably with specialized training in population development from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have experience in the implementation of programs or population development or responsible parenthood for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city population officer shall receive such compensations, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by the law.

(C) The city population officer shall take charge of the office of the population development, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the considerations of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to the integration of the population development principles and in providing access to the said services and facilities;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with the integration of population development principles and methods in program and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the population officer shall;

(a) Assist the city mayor in the implementation of the constitutional provisions relative to population development and the promotion of responsible parenthood;

(b) Establish and maintain an updated data bank for program operations, development planning and an educational program to ensure the people's participation in and understanding of population development; and

(c) Implement appropriate training programs responsive to the cultural heritage of the inhabitants.

(4) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

Sec. 46. *The City Agriculturist.* – (A) The city agriculturist must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City of Meycauayan, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in agriculture or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have practiced his profession in agriculture or acquired the experience in a related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his appointment.

(B) The city agriculturist shall receive such compensation, emoluments and allowances as may be determined by law.

(C) The city agriculturist shall take charge of the office for the agricultural services, and shall:

(1) Formulate measures for the approval of the sangguniang panlungsod and provide technical assistance and support to the city mayor in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basis services and provision of adequate facilities relative to agricultural services;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the city mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with agricultural programs and projects which the city mayor is empowered to implement and which the sangguniang panlungsod is empowered to provide;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the city agriculturist shall:

(a) Ensure that maximum assistance and access to resources in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and aquacultural and marine products are extended to farmers, fishermen and local entrepreneurs:

(b) Conduct or cause to be conducted location-specific agricultural researches and assist in making available the appropriate technology arising out of and disseminating information on basis research on crops, prevention and control of plant diseases and pests, and other agricultural matters which will maximize productivity;

(c) Assist the city mayor in the establishment and extension services of demonstration farms or aquaculture and marine products;

(d) Enforce rules and regulations relating to agriculture and aquaculture; and

(e) Coordinate with government agencies and nongovernmental organizations which promote agricultural productivity through appropriate technology compatible with environmental integrity.

(4) Be in the frontline of the delivery of basic agricultural services, particularly those needed for the survival of the inhabitants during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural disasters and calamities;

(5) Recommend to the sangguniang panlungsod and advise the city mayor on all other matters related to agriculture which will improve the livelihood and living conditions of the inhabitants; and

(6) Perform such other duties and functions and exercise such other powers as provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE VIII
THE CITY FIRE STATION SERVICE, THE CITY JAIL SERVICE, THE CITY SCHOOL DIVISION AND THE CITY PROSECUTION SERVICE

Sec. 47. *The City Fire Station Service.* – (a) There shall be established in the City at least one (1) fire station with adequate personnel, fire fighting facilities and equipment, subject to the standards, rules and regulations that may be promulgated by the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The City shall provide the necessary land or site of the station.

(b) The city fire station service shall be headed by a city fire marshal whose qualifications shall be as those provided for under Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the Philippine National Police Law.

(c) The city fire station shall be responsible for the protection and various emergency services such as rescue and evacuation of injured people at fire-related incidents and, in general fire prevention and suppression measures to secure the safety of life and property of the citizenry.

Sec. 48. *The City Jail Service.* – (a) There shall be established and maintained in the City a secured, clean, adequately equipped and sanitary jail for the custody and safekeeping of prisoners, any fugitive from justice, or person detained awaiting investigation or trial and/or transfer to the national penitentiary, and/or violent mentally ill person who endangers himself or the safety of others, duly certified as such by the proper medical health officer, pending the transfer to a mental institution.

(b) The city jail service shall be headed by a city jail warden who must be a graduate of a four (4)-year course in psychology, psychiatry, sociology, nursing, social work or criminology who shall assist in the immediate rehabilitation of individuals or detention of prisoners. Great care must be exercised so that human rights of these prisoners are respected and protected, and their spiritual and physical well-being are properly and promptly attended to.

Sec. 49. *The City School Division.* – (a) The Department of Education, Culture and Sports shall establish and maintain a school division of the City of Meycauayan whose area of jurisdiction will cover all the school districts within the City: and

(o) The city school division shall be headed by a division superintendent who must possess the necessary qualifications required by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports.

Sec. 50. *The City Prosecution Service.* – (a) There shall be established in the City a prosecution service to be headed by a city prosecutor and such number of assistant prosecutors as may be necessary, who shall be organizationally part of the Department of Justice, and under the supervision and control of the Secretary of Justice and whose qualifications, manner of appointment, rank, salary and benefits shall be governed by existing laws covering prosecutors in the Department of Justice.

(b) The city prosecutor shall handle the criminal prosecution in the municipal trial courts in the City as well as in the regional trial courts for criminal cases originating in the territory of the City, and shall render to or for the City such services as are required by law, ordinance or regulation of the Department of Justice.

(c) The Secretary of Justice shall always assure the adequacy and quality of prosecution service in the City and for this purpose, shall, in the absence or lack or insufficiency in number of city assistant prosecutors as provided hereinabove, designate from among the assistant provincial prosecutors a sufficient number to perform and discharge the functions of the city prosecution service as provided hereinabove.

ARTICLE IX
TRANSITORY AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 51. *Municipal Ordinances Existing at the Time of the Approval of this Act.* – All municipal ordinances of the Municipality of Meycauayan existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall continue to be in force within the City of Meycauayan until the sangguniang panlungsod ordinance shall provide otherwise.

Sec. 52. *Plebiscite.* – The City of Meycauayan shall acquire corporate existence upon the ratification of its creation by a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters in a plebiscite to be conducted in the present Municipality of Meycauayan within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act. The expenses for such plebiscite shall be borne by the Municipality of Meycauayan. The Commission on Elections shall conduct and supervise such plebiscite.

Sec. 53. *Officials of the City of Meycauayan.* – The present elective officials of the Municipality of Meycauayan shall continue to exercise their powers and functions until such a time that a new election is held and the duly elected officials shall have already qualified and assumed their offices. The appointive officials and employees of the Municipality of Meycauayan shall likewise continue exercising their functions and duties and they shall be automatically absorbed by the City Government of Meycauayan.

Sec. 54. *Succession Clause.* – The City of Meycauayan shall succeed to all the assets, properties, liabilities and obligations of the Municipality of Meycauayan.

Sec. 55. *Election of Provincial Governor and Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members of the Province of Bulacan.* – The qualified voters of the City of Meycauayan shall qualify to vote and run for any elective position in the elections for provincial governor, provincial vice governor, sangguniang panlalawigan members and other elective offices for the Province of Bulacan.

Sec. 56. *Jurisdiction of the Province of Bulacan.* – The City of Meycauayan shall, unless otherwise provided by law, continue to be under the jurisdiction of Bulacan Province.

Sec. 57. *Suspension of Increase in Rates of Local Taxes.* – No increase in the rates of local taxes shall be imposed by the City within the period of five (5) years from its acquisition of corporate existence.

Sec. 58. *Representative District.* – Until otherwise provided by law, the City of Meycauayan shall continue to be a part of the Fourth Congressional District of Bulacan Province.

Sec. 59. *Applicability of Laws.* – The provisions of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, and such laws as are applicable to component cities shall govern the City of Meycauayan insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 69. *Separability Clause.* – If any part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

Sec. 61. *Reservation.* – Nothing herein contained shall preclude the determination by the appropriate agency or forum of boundary disputes or cases involving questions of territorial jurisdiction between the City of Meycauayan and any of the adjoining local government units even after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 62. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 63. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general and local circulation.

Approved.

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL, JR.
President of the Senate

FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.
Speaker of the House of Representative

This Act which is a consolidation of House Bill No. 10659 and Senate Bill No. 2260 was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 8, 2001.

LUTGARDA B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General House Representatives

Approved:
March 05, 2001

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

AMICABLE DISCUSSIONS

Maynilad ready to settle rates row

By Christine A. Gaylican

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. has shifted to low gear, saying it is now ready to work out a compromise and settle its bid to raise its rates.

"What is important now is that amicable discussions are ongoing," former Commission on Elections chair Christian Monsod, Maynilad's chief strategist, told the INQUIRER.

Monsod said Maynilad was "now exploring alternatives" to an automatic foreign-exchange pricing mechanism—referred to as "auto-Cera"—that it had been insisting on to recover its losses due to the peso's weakness against the dollar.

Maynilad and Manila Water Inc. have been seeking a pricing mechanism that will allow them to automatically raise their rates in line with the peso's movements against the dollar.

Maynilad said it needed such a mechanism to be able to continue delivering cheap and clean water to its franchise area and address a longstanding water crisis.

Maynilad chair Oscar Lopez said in the statement the so-called auto-Cera—the same mechanism that allows power and telephone companies to cover foreign exchange losses and continue their service uninterrupted—was critical to his company's survival.

Without an "auto-Cera," Lopez said Maynilad's revenues would be so eaten up by the devaluation of the peso, leaving nothing to lay new pipes and fix old ones.

He explained that under its concession agreement, Maynilad assumed 90 percent of the Metropoitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's foreign loans worth $800 million. At that time, in 1997 when the peso was worth 26 to a dollar, this was equivalent to only P20 billion.

"Now, it is worth almost P40 billion because of the peso devaluation, and Maynilad is earning in pesos, not dollars," he said.

MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta had said, however, that it was not the government's obligation to relieve Manila Water and Maynilad of their financial burden.

Some analysts familiar with the issue said the tight fix and financial woes now being experienced by the concessionaires could be due to wrong financial assumptions. They said the two firms offered rates lower than necessary during the bidding for the concessions.

Former Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said Manila Water and Maynilad used financial assumptions that were no longer applicable. The former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority said the concessionaires apparently used the most optimistic financial scenario

Manila Water and Maynilad did not take into account in their forecasts the possibility that the Asia Pacific region would suffer a currency meltdown or that a sitting president could be ousted through another People Power movement.

Unfortunately for the concessionaires, both events happened, causing the peso to slide to as low as 56 to a dollar and interest rates to shoot up That effectively doubled their dollar-denominated debts.

Financial records obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the concessionaires' cash-flow problems were also coming from a very high percentage of "non-revenue water," or NRW, caused by illegal or faulty connections.

The cash deficit claimed by Manila Water and Maynilad came from high NRWs, resulting in low operating revenues. The two firms cited NRW targets that they had been unable to meet since 1997.

Manila Water targeted to bring down its NRW by 44 percent in 1997. It ended up with an NRW rate of 45.2 percent, which meant that it did not profit from nearly half the water it distributed.

In 1998, Manila Water's NRW target was 31 percent; it chalked up 38.8 percent. In 1999, the target was raised to 39.8 percent from an earlier assumption of 22 percent.

Maynilad, on the other hand, had hoped to keep its NRW at 42 percent in 1999, but ended with 67 percent.

Philippines seen posting 4.4% growth

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES should post a 4.4-percent growth in gross domestic product this year on the back of renewed confidence in the Macapagal administration, according to WorldSec International Securities (Philippines) Inc.

Worldsec, a local unit of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd., said Philippine GDP growth would come in at 4 percent by the end of the first quarter.

The investment firm's estimates were higher than the government's own targets of a 3.8- to 4.2-percent GDP growth.

GDP refers to the sum of goods and services produced within the country's boundaries.

Worldsec said growth would come mainly from industries and the services sector. The agricultural sector, it said, would normalize this year.

It said industries would grow by 4.9 percent this year from 3.6 percent last year while the services sector would expand by 4.6 percent from 4.4 percent.

The agriculture, fishery and forestry sector would grow by only 2.8 percent this year from 3.4 percent last year, according to Worldsec.

THE HANDYMAN Fire SALE PREVENTION March 15 to 31

HANDYMAN TIP OF THE MONTH
Preventing Electrical Fires
- Never overload circuits or extension cords.
- You should also refrain from placing cords and wires under rugs.
- Shut off and unplug appliances if they sputter, spark or emit an unusual smell.
- Immediately have them checked out by a qualified professional.

REG. PRICE P29.75 Insulation Tape (18mm/ 10m)

REG. PRICE P1,199.75 Fire Extinguisher (Rechargeable)

REG. PRICE P2,899.75 Angle Grinder (DW810) — FREE Disc Grinder (DW4419) & Handle

REG. PRICE P599.75 Smoke Alarm

REG. PRICE P9,239.75 Clean Boy Pressure Washer (101K)

REG. PRICE P1,950.00 Fire Buster Pack

* Item is not available at all branches

Great Handy Buys

REG. PRICE P13,305.75 Fireproof Safe (HOFPD-02)

REG. PRICE P749.75 Emergency Light (6612)

REG. PRICE P340.75 Reinforced Garden Hose .0127m x 15.24m (1/2" x 50')

REG. PRICE P175.00 Vinyl Mini Blinds .61m x 1.22m (24" x 48")

REG. PRICE P3,895.00 Water Lamp (6669)

REG. PRICE P32.75 Scotch 1710 Vinyl Electrical Tape Flame Retardant .01905m x 18.29m x.0001778m (3/4" x 60' x .007")

REG. PRICE P5,850.00 9" B/W Monitor w/ Audio (RV 09BMA)

REG. PRICE P4,995.00 Home Surveillance Security Camera (BC442)

REG. PRICE P599.75 Panel Box (with 6 Branches)

REG. PRICE P1,215.00 Portable Hose Reel (LHR-230A)

REG. PRICE P124.75 All- purpose auto visorholder with cellphone case

REG. PRICE P8,320.00 Power Planner (N1900B)

REG. PRICE P899.75 Bolt Cutter (350mm) *Other sizes available

REG. PRICE P399.75 Lite box energy saving flourescent fixtures with FREE Toshiba flourescent lamp (20 watts)

REG. PRICE P1,629.75 Stove Stand & Heavy Duty Cart

REG. PRICE P684.75 Pest Repeller (DX-610)

REG. PRICE P6,600.00 Instant Water Heater (LOTUS FL9000)

Handyman homes open nationwide

LUZON Region
Robinsons Galleria 634-5266
Robinsons Dept. Store - Cainta 681-0634
Robinsons Place Manila 526-6249
Robinsons Place Imus (046) 875-4687
Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños (049) 536-7036
Waltermart Visayas 414-9803
Waltermart Makati 750-1649
Waltermart Calamba (049) 545-7178
Waltermart Sta. Rosa (049) 549-3398
Waltermart Dasmariñas (046) 416-2397
Waltermart Carmona (046) 430-2721
Metropolis Alabang 807-6989
Riverbanks Center Marikina 934-5079
Fairview Center Mall 937-5820
Alimall Cubao 912-6613
New Farmers Plaza Cubao 421-0507
Star Mall Shaw 7219564, 7219543
Mega Center, The Mall Cabanatuan (044) 600-2780
Center Mall Baguio (074) 304-1615
Magic Star Tarlac (045) 800-0507
LCC Center Mall Naga (054) 811-5253 / 811-5006
LCC Express Mall Legaspi (052) 820-1515

Visayas/Mindanao Region
Robinsons Place Cebu (032) 253-3679
Robinsons Place Bacolod (2nd & 3rd Level) (034) 441-0152
Gaisano Mall Davao (082) 224-3381
Gaisano City Mall Iloilo (033) 337-0126
Gaisano Fiesta Mall Tabunok, Cebu (032) 273-8258
Gaisano City Roxas (036) 621-0661
Marymart Center Iloilo (033) 337-0125
Limketkai Center Cagayan De Oro (088) 856-2059

Soon, even more branches to serve you better

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0347, Series of 2001

FOR EFFECTIVE PITCHES

INQUIRER Golf Monthly

Get A Grip On The Game.

Get the Body YOU want.
24 Minutes, Twice A Week
BENDER & STRANDS
Ayala Ave. 848-5444 to 48
B.F. Paranaque 842-6441
Magallanes Vill. 757-1179
Trained, Certified & Powered by Nautilus

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
C1
BUSINESS Monday
MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Short term training are just our thing
PCs for rent.
From 1-100 units available.
RENTech COMPUTER CORP
Your One-Stop I.T. Rental Shop
Tel: 723-0601/727-7222 • Fax: 723-7951

Small borrowers are good payers

But banks lend only to big firms who account for most of the bad loans

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

LARGE banks have long been criticized for lending only to rich individuals and corporations which are capable of repaying the loans in the first place. They would rather not lend out to the small borrowers who really need the capital because they are perceived to be very "high risk" clients, or put simply, they are not expected to pay the loans.

And yet the most number of bad loans are incurred by big businesses; never of the small ones.

Monetary board member Antonino Alindogan says during the national convention of the Chamber of Thrift Banks that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has prepared a circular that would hopefully encourage thrift banks and rural banks to increase their micro finance facilities to help budding entrepreneurs.

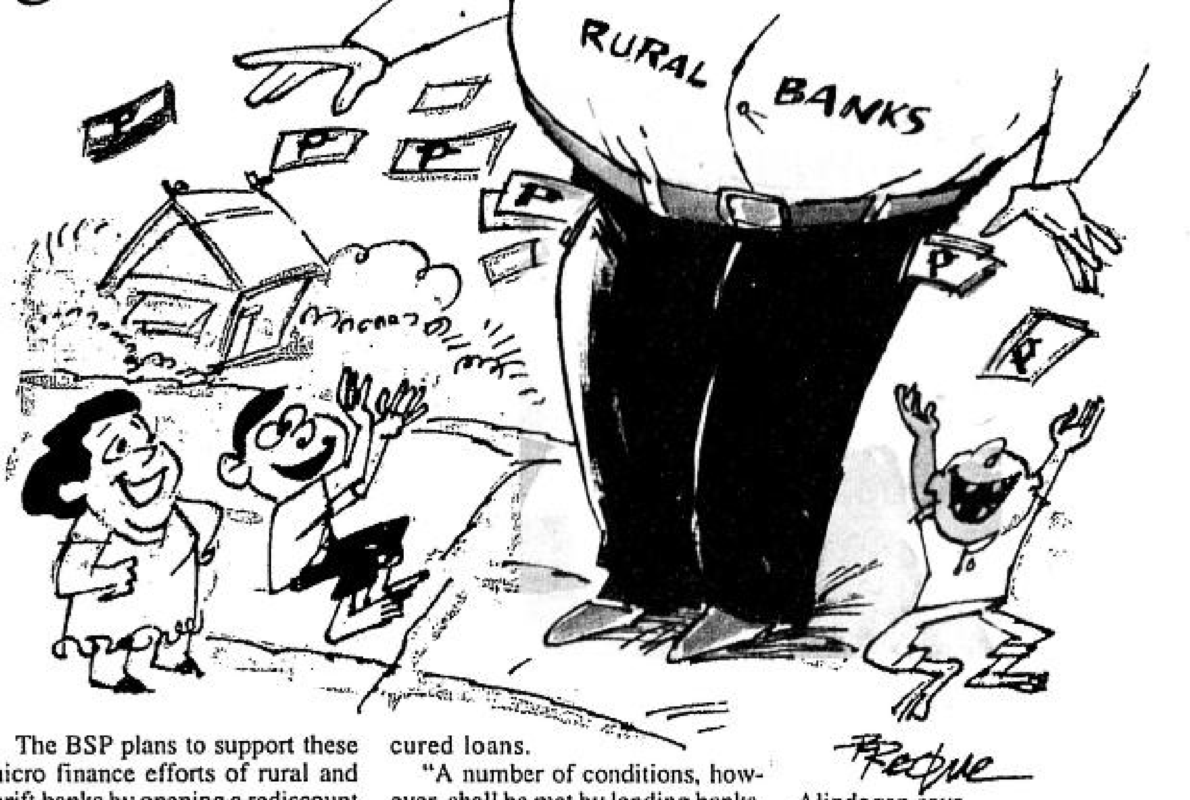
"We have seen in at least two rural banks that it is possible to give out no collateral loans to poor borrowers and still make a profit. It is not a dole-out but a real lending exercise at market rates," Alindogan tells the INQUIRER.

Alindogan tells about a community in San Pablo, Laguna, where housewives who live below the poverty line pooled their funds and then helped each other capitalize small business ventures such as selling food and planting seasonal crops to augment the family income.

"In that community, we saw that the people are willing to increase their contribution to cover someone else's debt just to make sure that they pay their loans with the bank on time. In the end their collection rate was almost perfect at 99 percent," Alindogan says.

Many of these small borrowers, he says, borrow anywhere from as low as P500 to as much as P150,000. Most of these are cooperatives and rural-based workers who have no access to credit provided by bigger banks.

"The usual concern of banks is that these people are high risk but things have changed and micro finance is a powerful tool that can alleviate poverty. But we should emphasize that the rates should be at par with market rates, not subsidized rates. Giving dole outs is the sure recipe for disaster in these lending facilities," Alindogan says.



The BSP plans to support these micro finance efforts of rural and thrift banks by opening a rediscount window where banks can get funds to replenish the pool set aside for micro finance lending.

The BSP is also willing to exempt micro finance loans from regulations concerning unsecured loans.

"A number of conditions, however, shall be met by lending banks. They should possess well-defined standards, credit policies and procedures for micro finance loans; specific measures to ensure collection; and a loan portfolio and other risk assets review system," Alindogan says.

Alindogan also says that the interest rate on micro finance loans should be reasonable and not just as determined by management. He, however, stresses that the interest rate will not be lower than prevailing market rates to enable the lending institution to recover the operational costs.

This will be complemented by a value formation campaign in the provinces through the rural banks wherein small borrowers will be taught financial discipline. Alindogan says borrowers should be taught that they should pay their debts and not expect any dole outs from the government.

The BSP is trying to ease regulations and by encouraging the entry of new micro finance-oriented banks. These will be the only banks to be opened given the current BSP moratorium on the establishment of new banks.

Alindogan encourages existing thrift and rural banks to consider concentrating on micro finance saying that it was an opportunity to broaden their delivery of banking services.

"Micro finance can contribute significantly to the alleviation of the plight of the poor who are normally considered high risk. I am confident that banks will carefully consider the opportunities and use these as a tool to strongly support the national agenda on poverty alleviation," he says.

Fast-forward your savings at Plantersbank and watch it really grow!

Introducing
P60,000 Becomes P100,000 in 5 Years

60 ▸▸▸▸ 100
P60,000 BECOMES P100,000 IN 5 YEARS

Imagine the endless possibilities. Save for the college education of your children, take a grand vacation, buy your dream house, or just keep on fast-forwarding your savings for whatever you might want to spend it on later. The choice is yours.

Simply open an individual or joint account of P60,000 at any Plantersbank branch and in only 5 years, your money becomes P100,000 tax-free.

- Minimum deposit requirement is P60,000
- Documentary stamps and withholding tax waived if held to maturity
- Certificate of Time Deposit (CTD) will be issued

For inquiries, call our product hotline at tel. no. (02) 759-2703,
e-mail at corpcomm@plantersbank.com.ph
or visit any Plantersbank branch near you.

PLANTERSBANK
The Bank for Small and Medium Enterprises

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.
Deposits insured up to P100,000.00

A proud member of BancNet

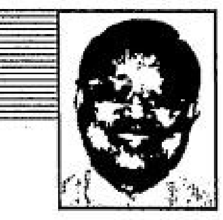
YES, I want my savings to really grow.
Name: ____
Address: ____
Phone No.: ____
Fax No.: ____
Occupation: ____
Cut and Fax this form to (02) 759-2700.
PDI 03/2001

Ano?! Wala ka pang Direct Link?
Find out what Direct Link's all about!
Log on to www.dirlink.net
Call 88-725-88 or Toll Free 1800-1888-LINK(5465) anywhere from the Philippines
GET YOUR FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE TODAY!
Also get a chance to win a FREE trip for two to SINGAPORE!
Hear about CONVENIENT, AFFORDABLE and RELIABLE car insurance and as much as 50% savings on your premiums. Plus FREE 24-hour roadside and accident assistance, with 24-hour towing and ambulance services from Direct Link's partnership with the Philippine Motor Association!
A joint venture of UCPB Group & Crowe Insurance Group of London
direct link CAR INSURANCE

Choosing political candidates

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Santiago F. Dumlao Jr.



ELECTION season is here again and it's time to bring out our list of criteria against which we can judge the fitness of a political candidate. Whether or not our voters choose on the basis of qualifications should not be a cause of debate. The imperative is that they should, and we must never tire exhorting, persuading and insisting.

Here's my list of criteria for choosing a person for public office. It is a very Christian perspective, but certainly the criteria are not alien to voters of other faiths.

When I first presented this list some years back to a church-related group eager for reform, the reaction was that it might be too demanding, and impractical. My Lord! The trouble with many of us is that we want to dilute the demands even of simple good norms and common sense because we're afraid no one might meet the test—including ourselves.

Anyway, here's my list. Compare it with yours.

General considerations

1. *Fully submitted to God*

Above all, the person who aspires for any public position must be, in mind and heart, fully submitted to God.

He is a practising Christian who consistently extols and exemplifies the Gospel values, in his speech, actions and relationships.

As a person, he is not necessarily perfect in his ways, but he earnestly tries to be. If he had a sinful past, he has totally renounced that past in favor of a new life of Christian virtue. He believes in sincere personal repentance which must be shown in unmistakable manner.

He is a bold witness, not a closet Christian.

2. *A servant's disposition*

A public office being essentially an office of public service, he must be single-minded in wanting to serve his constituents with utter dedication. He has a servant's heart, and acknowledges his servanthood as a public officer.

Consequently, his disposition to serve others unselfishly must be very evident in his personal, family and work life, and in his genuine involvement in service-oriented organizations or associations.

In this regard, he is particularly marked as a person of humility and his whole life is characterized by Christian simplicity, i.e. to please God is the end-all and be-all of his existence.

3. *A person of peace*

He must be pre-eminently a man of peace, one who always tries to address conflicts with due regard to a proper reconciliation of opposing views without diluting his basic Christian principles, one who always prefers dialogue rather than combative confrontations in the resolution of disagreements, one who will never use violence in pursuing his objectives.

He must not willingly associate with men who are publicly known to be criminals or evildoers, especially with those who promote violence by the indiscriminate use or display of firearms and similar instruments of violence. Nor should he accept support from these people.

"He who touches pitch blackens his hands; he who associates with an impious man learns his ways." *Sirach 13:1*

4. *A tested leader*

He has shown, and is likely to continue showing, that he can motivate people to do as he wishes them to do, bringing out the best in people, and getting them to perform outstandingly, because they believe in him and his causes.

He is always clear in his objectives and is able to convincingly recruit supporters to his cause because his purposes are worthy, his ways persuasive and his zeal overwhelming. He is always clear about his priorities, about what he should do and not do.

He is full of initiative and is never hesitant to try out new ideas or new ways of doing things. If failure comes, he does not dwell on this but learns from the event and starts all over again, quickly. When mistakes occur, as they do, he never engages in fault-finding, but focuses only on how mistakes will not be allowed to happen again.

He is a skillful organizer who knows what work must be done and when, and how to allocate work assignments to the right persons. He shares authority in the correct proportions, but keeps the delegation of authority manageable for him to assume full responsibility at all times.

He is decisive when confronted with problems, and his decisiveness is carried through firmly from decision to completion and implementation.

5. *He is competent, a man of action*

He should have the basic educational preparation for public office. He must have the high intelligence to cope confidently with difficult problems, and the superior conceptual skills to address complex issues. He speaks and writes clearly and well enough to be understood.

Almost compulsively, he wants to get things done fast, taking on problems always with a sense of urgency. But he is not haphazard. He acts on the basis of facts, but realizes information is never always as complete as one would like. He consults the opinions of others but he

CHOOSING/ C3

CAR TROUBLE ?
CALL CAMILLE !

"It's a Free Membership Road Assistance program that comes with your Malayan Comprehensive Motorcar Insurance."

Now available in :
- Metro Manila
- Cebu City
- Davao City
- Angeles City
- Sto. Tomas, Batangas
- Olongapo (Subic)
- Dagupan City
- Baguio City
- La Union
- Gen. Santos City

CAMILLE
CALL MALAYAN INSURANCE LIVE LINE
6363-797

CAMILLE is your 24-hour road emergency hotline that keeps you company and helps you find the assistance you need to get you and your car out of trouble. You can expect CAMILLE to be with you along the streets – 7 days a week.

Your Privileges with CAMILLE
24-hour Motorist Emergency
Telephone Access with Operator Assistance

FREE Benefits:
- Emergency Towing Assistance
- Emergency Telephone Medical Advice
- Emergency Message Relay
- General Claims Assistance

REFERRAL PROGRAM BENEFITS:
- Emergency breakdown assistance
- Alternative transportation assistance
- Arrangement for an Emergency Medical Transportation
- Arrangement for Returns of Mortal Remains

For details, call MALAYAN INSURANCE Customer Service Department
Tel. No.: 242-8888 local 361 or visit our website: http://www.malayan.com

"One Network. One Powerful Voice For Luzon."

Listen to Luzon. People are talking, expressing themselves, reaching out – through DIGITEL. On the Internet, they can now e-mail with Internet-ready phones. Across the nation, they can reach out with National Direct Dialing (NDD) at rates that are the lowest in the country. Around the globe, they can connect through International Direct Dialing (IDD). • Now, those closest to their hearts remain within reach, even if they are far away. Friends & family they miss the most are brought closer to home. And business ties they need and value are built and strengthened. Through DIGITEL, the people of Luzon now have a voice – giving them the power to express themselves, the power to better their lives.

DIGITEL
in association with TELIA AB of Sweden
Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc.
Head Office: 110 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, 1110, Q.C.
Tel. No. (02) 2408447, Fax No. (02) 3950002 www.digitel.ph
Giving Voice To Luzon.
A JG Summit Company

MOVEMENTS

New Ramcar firm president

ORIENTAL and Motolite Corp., the country's largest battery manufacturer, has spun off its sales and marketing division to form an independent organization—the new Oriental and Motolite Marketing Corp. (OMMC).

OMMC's mandate is to further strengthen the group's dominance in the domestic automotive battery industry. The newest addition to the Ramcar Group of Companies is headed by Mike V. Pingol as president. Prior to his appointment, he was senior vice president for marketing of the parent company, Oriental and Motolite Corp. He has been in the battery industry for 28 years. He is also the president of the Philippine Association of Battery Manufacturers (PABM).

New Splash marketing manager

DR. ROLANDO B. Hortaleza, chair and chief executive officer of the Splash Group of Companies, announced the appointment of Rebecca S. Ofalsa as the new marketing manager for the Group's flagship company, Splash Manufacturing Corp.

As marketing manager, Ofalsa will conceptualize and implement strategies to ensure that the company's pioneering and innovative cosmetics and personal care products would continue to lead in the market. A graduate of the Asian Institute of Management, Ofalsa brings with her more than 15 years of experience in corporate planning, training sales and marketing gained from various multinational companies in the pharmaceutical and consumer industries.

Hortaleza also announced the appointment of Fe Marie Rebebes-Cabantac as corporate learning manager. As corporate learning manager, Cabantac will serve as the administrator of Splash University which is tasked with the formulation and implementation of training interventions for corporate education based on core competencies, conceptual framework and corporate citizenship.

She will further guide and direct the comprehensive training program for six subsidiaries plus the mother company which is Splash Holdings Inc. Cabantac brings with her several years of training and market research consultancy, as well as counseling experience, earned from stints at the Manila Electric Co., AC Nielsen Philippines, several training consultancy firms and the academe, notably the University of Santo Tomas and Colegio San Agustin.

SCB's new team member

STANDARD Chartered Bank, the oldest established foreign bank in the Philippines, recently appointed Matthew Yeung as member of the bank's management committee, joining six other members of the executive team. Matthew is currently the head of wholesale bank service delivery, responsible for the entire service delivery platform in the bank including technology.

Matthew has been part of the Standard Chartered Group since 1986, assuming various roles in the treasury department of Standard Chartered Bank Australia Ltd. including head of treasury operations and head of market risk. He also held positions in other institutions prior to joining Standard Chartered, namely Elders IXL Ltd., TMX Hong Kong Ltd., Continental King Lung Trading Ltd. and Tetra Finance (HK) Ltd.

In recognition of his new role, SCB Philippines CEO Annemarie Durbin said: "This promotion is well deserved and reflective of the fact that people who go the extra mile are well-recognized for their extra effort."

An Australian national, Matthew is married with two children.

Choosing . . .

(From page C2)

never abdicates his responsibility for making the final decision.

He should have a thorough knowledge and understanding of what the prospective job requires, and on unfamiliar aspects he seeks to learn eagerly.

6. *He displays good judgment*

He must be capable of good judgment, especially in sensitive situations which involve conflicting claims. He is adept at defusing emotionally charged confrontations.

This good judgment comes from accustomed sincerity practised through the years, from an open-mindedness and healthy respect for ideas different from his own, and from plain common sense.

His work experience, especially those which have presented him with difficult dilemmas, would show his exercise of good judgment.

7. *He is honest*

In a society that is characterized by so much dishonesty, the person who aspires for public office must be uncommonly honest in all his ways, who by his past and present record, believes and practices the tenet: "I shall not lie, cheat or steal."

The honest person does not distinguish between honesty in big or small matters, in family life or business life, in public dealings or private transactions.

Without honesty, there can be no enduring trust that is the bedrock of all good, working relationships. And since public office is a public trust, honesty is an indispensable requirement.

The public servant must be honest, even if others are not, even if others cannot, even if others will not.

8. *A firm believer in the rule of law. A constitutionalist*

He is an uncompromising advocate of the primacy of the Philippine Constitution. He upholds democracy and will go out of his way to protect and strengthen democratic institutions.

He is particularly concerned with evenhandedness in law enforcement, and with the swift and fair administration of justice.

His record must show positive examples of his respect for the rule of law.

9. *A special concern for the poor*

His fidelity to Christian virtue moves him clearly on the side of the poor and underprivileged members of society. Social justice for all and the eventual eradication of mass poverty are his fundamental concerns, as shown in previous involvements and present commitments.

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of Philippine Rating Services Corp. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

Making the Philippines a knowledge center

BY DENNIS M. ARROYO

GARCIA

THE PHILIPPINES is considered the second biggest source for IT professionals next to India. But while India has managed to create a solid reputation with multinational companies flocking to the country, the Philippines continues to struggle.

Renato B. Garcia, considered one of the pioneers in the information technology sector, attempts to shed some light on how to harness the strength of the Philippines and transform it into a knowledge center.

Garcia is organizing a symposium on information communications policy with the Ateneo Center for Continuing Education from March 26-28. It will assemble industry leaders and forward recommendations to policymakers.

Garcia is a telecommunications consultant and the managing director of Symbol Sciences Co. Inc. (a barcode company). He has 29 years of experience in information communications.

He ran the cellular divisions of Isla Communications Co., Express Telecommunications Co. and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

INQUIRER: The government tried to break up the monopoly in the telecommunications industry through the service area scheme. Has it been successful in strengthening competition?

Garcia: Telecoms has often been a monopolistic industry. All countries had national monopolies, mostly government-owned except in the US and the Philippines. Being a public utility service, such a structure ensured that services were installed nationwide in all areas where they were needed, including unprofitable areas. Having attained universal access, developed countries opened these to deregulation and competition.

In underdeveloped countries like ours, deregulation allowed the entry of new services. These can be seen in the highly competitive cellular services and the Internet. However, despite the service area scheme, the basic phone services have remained within the urban centers and major towns and municipalities.

Operators have been unable to serve most of the less developed municipalities due to low demand and high costs in extending local services.

INQUIRER: But has deregulation changed the landscape of the telecommunications industry?

Garcia: The increasing demand for communications, be it basic phone services, cellular, Internet, broadband multi-media, etc., has brought about a multi-carrier, multi-services structure. Today, new operators have cropped up to challenge the large carriers. Some have successfully merged with the large carriers, with the small operators acquiring the larger ones.

Broadband services are now being introduced by new start-up companies like Meridian and Broadband Philippines, among others.

The competitive environment will allow new entrants and new services. The carriers with a long-term business cause will outdistance those without one. Improvements in

MAKING/ C4

Turn your home loan wish list into a reality.

We pay you back the entire amount of principal at loan maturity. Now available in 15, 20, 25 and 30 year terms.

✓ Affordable payment term of your choice!

✓ Manageable! No Principal Payments for the first 5 years!

Home Free... only at PSBank

Transfer your current housing loan to PSBank and enjoy 1% less on your current loan interest rate for the first quarter. Handling and application fees waived. Conditions apply. Offer runs from March 5 to May 31, 2001.

PSBank
PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
A METROBANK SUBSIDIARY

Working harder for you.

PSBank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
Tel. 843 2038 • Fax 845 0004, 845 0051

BancNet Member PDIC. Deposits Insured up to P100,000.

PSB Home Free

Make it happen.

Hurry! Call us at Tel. No. **843 2038** locals **8404** to **8414** or visit your nearest PSBank branch.

FAX or mail this coupon to:
PSBank Mortgage Banking Division
9/F PSBank Tower, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
Fax: 845 0009 and **888 5196**

Name: ______________________
Contact Number: ______________________
Address: ______________________
Publication where this ad appeared: ______________________

PSB HOME FREE IS NOW AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0277 Series of 2001

When a small bank joins the big leagues

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

PAUL Lawrence and Peter Yeates

SIXTEEN bank branches, formerly called the PCIB Savings Bank, are undergoing a major facelift, inside and out, that will soon give them the look of an international banking chain.

But top officials of HSBC, which acquired the bank last December, admit there are growing pains in the integration process. The first step was to rename the bank to HSBC Savings Bank (Philippines) Inc. and it is perhaps the easiest.

The plan is to fully integrate the savings bank into the global financial system of the British bank, such that for the first time in the Philippines, a client can make international banking transactions through a savings bank.

Of course there is a cost to this but HSBC CEO Paul J. Lawrence sets aside the money angle and emphasizes that it is important to equip the savings bank with the capabilities of the mother bank.

The integration of the computer systems has kept HSBC officials quite busy over the past four months.

HSBC senior vice president for personal financial services and HSBC Savings president Peter Yeates says that the systems of the two banks are very different.

Other than the system, Lawrence admits the cultures of the two banks are very different. "We are instilling our values and vision."

He adds that the approaches of the two banks to operating service levels are different but cites that there are also similarities, particularly in the area of customer service.

The interiors of the savings bank are being patterned after HSBC, which is similar to the interiors of its other branches all over the world.

HSBC Savings is intended to be the personal banking arm of HSBC and it starts off by coming up with its classic account where a depositor can open an account for as low as P5,000 (compared to the minimum deposit of P100,000 or its dollar equivalent in HSBC).

It will also push other products like home loans and credit cards.

Lawrence says the "principal challenge is to sell a number of personal finance products and generate the right sort of customer base."

The main bank will provide corporate and institutional banking and treasury services and personal financial services to high-end customers.

HSBC caters to the top-end market but Lawrence says "there is a significant market beyond that. People borrow against salary, there is personal credit with credit cards."

He admits that there will eventually be a change in the customer base of the savings bank of 40,000 mostly mall depositors.

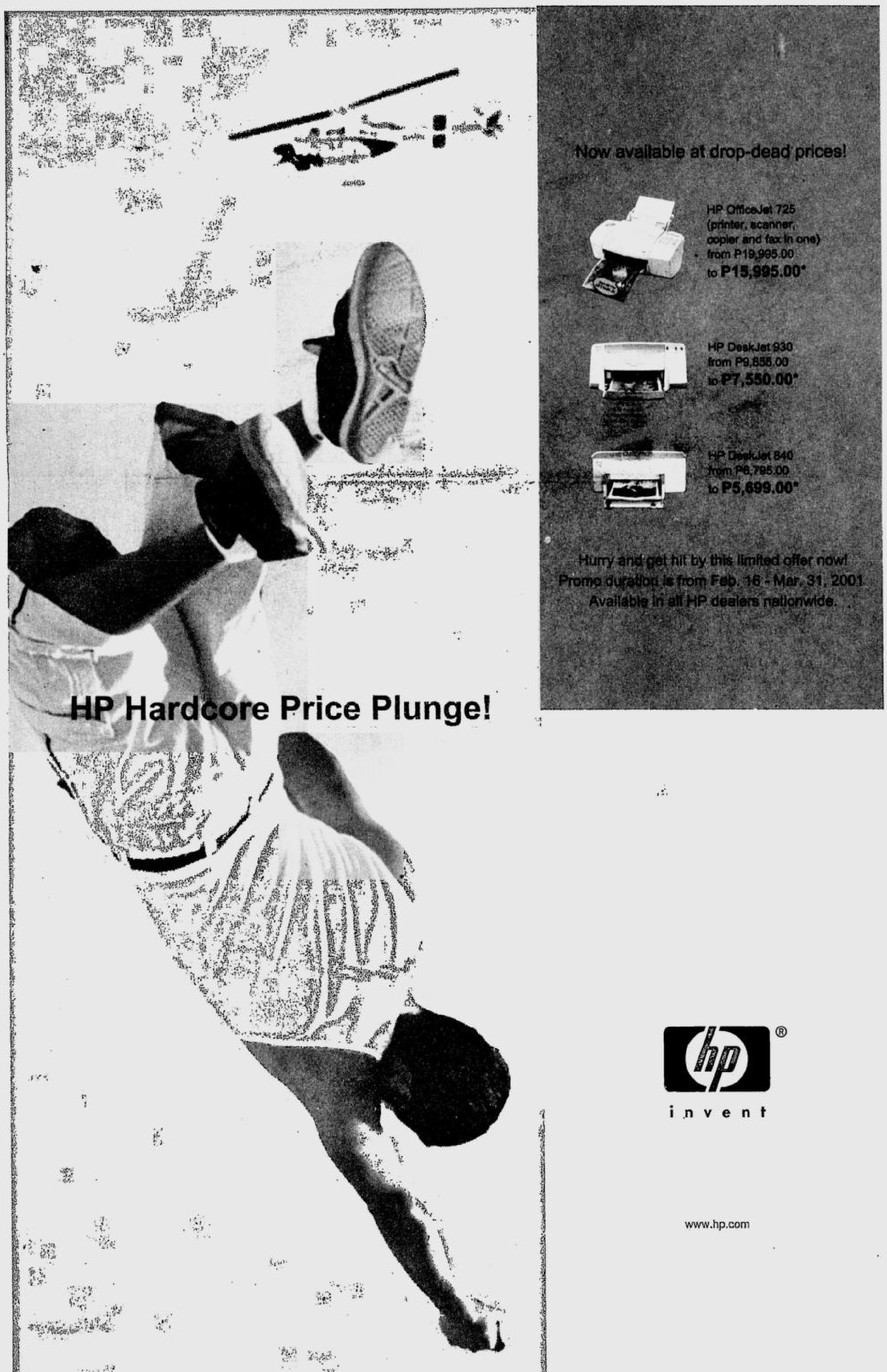
Under local banking laws, foreign banks can only open up to 10 branches. HSBC's purchase of PCIB Savings allows it to tap the large middle consumer market and create better awareness of the main bank.

No employee of the savings bank was laid off. Lawrence says they even expanded the staff base.

In marketing the savings bank, Yeates says HSBC and HSBC Savings will be branded separately. "We will create a separate brand but we will leverage off in the name and the strength of the name."

But with the numerous savings banks in the country, why would people still go to HSBC Savings?

"We have the competitive advantage of 16 strategic locations. We believe the customer base we are looking for is concentrated in these areas," says Lawrence. "We are bringing the savings bank market to the international level."



HP Hardcore Price Plunge!

Now available at drop-dead prices!

HP OfficeJet 725
(printer, scanner, copier and fax in one)
from P19,995.00
to **P15,995.00***

HP DeskJet 930
from P9,855.00
to **P7,550.00***

HP DeskJet 840
from P6,795.00
to **P5,699.00***

Hurry and get hit by this limited offer now!
Promo duration is from Feb. 16 - Mar. 31, 2001
Available in all HP dealers nationwide.

hp
invent

www.hp.com

*If payment is made through credit card, standard surcharge will be applied.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0408. Series of 2001.

Making the Philippines a knowledge center

(From page C3)

technologies and volume breakthroughs in the demand for these services will bring prices down.

Inquirer: Will this mean that telecommunications service will be affordable for the majority.

Garcia: Prices may drop to levels affordable to the greater population including those in the remote areas. I can think of pre-paid cards, wireless, economies of scale in production of computing equipment. Personal computers may fall below $300 to $200 or even $100.

Regulation is not the answer to prevent monopolies. It was a necessary evil where you had monopoly services in so-called public utilities. The transportation and communication models have changed offering new and better services with lower cost technology solutions. There are more cellular subscribers than basic phone services in the country today.

The cost of cellular phones is way below the costs of personal computers or television sets. Already, computing terminals are being produced in Brazil at $300 retail.

Inquirer: We have quite a problem with the budget deficit, so new tax breaks seem out of the question. What other incentives can be offered to push for global competitiveness in e-business?

Garcia: We know our competitive advantage—in customer relations management (CRM), animation and content development. What we need is to get our act together to assure the markets in Europe and the US that we can deliver and meet our commitments.

We have learned much from our mistakes in the garments industry and in data encoding. If we tarnish our reputation, loose our credibility, we will again remain to be mere exporters of bodies, a recruitment source for IT companies including those in Singapore, India, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Not much is needed to establish Philippine presence in the markets through an ICT Team Philippines Inc. approach. We can establish credibility through accreditation by a foundation or a consortium owned by the private companies.

They can act as a self-regulatory body, policing their own ranks through "certification."

Inquirer: We trail Asia's leaders in network infrastructure. How can we address the lack of telecoms infrastructure?

Garcia: Provide a policy environment that will encourage access to all services at reduced rates. Remove government regulation including rate determination, similar to what has happened in the cellular industry.

Establish other incentives such as tax exemptions and holidays to new entrants in new service areas. Increased productivity will bring in more government revenues through the VAT.

Inquirer: What are the prospects for the widespread use of broadband in the Philippines?

Garcia: New multi-media applications will open new markets. As demand increases and economies of scale are achieved, prices will become affordable to most. Postal offices and transportation terminals are to be replaced by call malls.

Inquirer: The Philippines is considered the text messaging capital of the world. How can the Philippines take economic advantage of this?

Garcia: Wireless technologies are changing the way we live. Mobile computing devices will become part of the mobile communications terminals. Broadband cellular will allow the application of multi-media and data transmission. We are already the testing ground for all these new technologies.

WAP enabled phones and applications are now being aggressively pushed into the market. The third generation cellular will introduce m-Commerce.

All these can contribute to enhancing the image of the Philippines as a knowledge center, as the site for information communication development.

Bank's move highlights challenge to Hong Kong from low-cost China

HONG KONG—First, the factories moved. Then, residents started traveling to China for shopping and karaoke. But when Hong Kong's biggest and oldest bank announced it plans to shift some jobs to the Chinese mainland, alarm bells started ringing.

For more than a century, Hong Kong has prided itself on being a world apart from the Chinese mainland, a beacon of Western, laissez-faire capitalism in the East.

China's ascent as a trading power, its commitments to open its markets further to foreign trade and investment and above all its lower costs are now challenging Hong Kong's traditional role as an entrepot for the mainland.

"It's a simple reality Hong Kong must face. It's an urgent task for Hong Kong to address its high costs," said Dong Tao, senior economist with Credit Suisse First Boston in Hong Kong.

The London-based Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.'s decision to shift about 1,000 back-office jobs to nearby Guangzhou over the next three years seemed to hit home—the bank, founded not long after Britain claimed Hong Kong island as a colony in 1842, is one of the city's oldest and biggest institutions.

"I think the economy in Hong Kong is changing; the cost structure obviously is expensive," said Raymond Or, the bank's general manager. "We are not the only one moving back office processing to Guangzhou—there are other similar moves by other companies."

The exorbitant cost of doing business here, with rents among the highest in the world; a shortage of professionals and increasingly smoggy skies, are handicaps this city of 6.8 million people could do without as it competes with other Chinese cities, as well as regional rivals such as Singapore, for jobs and investment.

Wages in Guangzhou, the provincial capital of neighboring Guangdong province and one of China's most affluent cities, are about half the $800 paid to bank clerks in Hong Kong.

Recently, Internet companies like Dot.media, Tom.com and renren.com have also either moved away or shed Hong Kong staff in order to hire more workers in the mainland.

Hong Kong's leaders point to its civil liberties, rule of law and modern financial markets as advantages over the Communist Party-ruled mainland—under the terms of its return to Chinese sovereignty in July 1997, the city retained its Western-style legal system and capitalist economy.

Hong Kong's leading-edge telecommunications systems and other modern infrastructure are other obvious advantages.

But not everyone wants to pay for such luxuries.

Labor intensive manufacturing left for China years ago, leaving Hong Kong to survive on tourism, commercial, financial and legal services.

"Hong Kong produces virtually nothing. It's a services economy. And in the service sector, cost does matter," says Dong, noting that Hong Kong residents go to China routinely to buy meat and vegetables or visit karaoke lounges. "The cost at this moment is just prohibitively high."

The London-based Economist Intelligence Unit recently ranked Hong Kong the world's fourth most expensive city, after Tokyo, the Osaka-Kobe region in Japan and Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

China's entry into the rules-making World Trade Organization, expected later this year, will bring more opportunities, but it also raises the risk that foreign corporations might bypass Hong Kong and go straight to the mainland.

Or, the bank manager, said his bank planned to retrain some employees and shift them into other areas, with a net loss of no more than 280 of its 14,000 staff.

Hong Kong has sought to move up the global economic food chain by setting its sights on developing high-tech industries.

Yet, high costs and other factors—decades of living with restrictions on exports of sensitive technology to China discouraged innovation—have kept Hong Kong a high-tech wanna-be.

High-tech executives are lobbying for tax concessions and rent subsidies. They fault Hong Kong for education and immigration policies they say restrict the pool of available talent.

"Hong Kong is losing its edge. People fear they can't get good schooling for their kids. The environment is bad," said Johnny Chan, co-founder and CEO of techpacific.com, a Hong Kong-based incubator and venture capital firm.

A shortage of suitably trained workers prompted the government recently to lower educational requirements for financial and information technology workers to lure more mainland Chinese professionals.

Announcing that move, Finance Secretary Donald Tsang stressed the need to work with Guangdong, the province of 72.7 million people just across the border.

Many in Hong Kong agree, though few have spoken in favor of reducing the sky-high property values that underpin the city's ultra-expensive prices.

"The future of Hong Kong is not 235 islands protecting ourselves, afraid people will go live across the border," John Woo Chia-wei, president of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said in a recent speech. "We have to work together." **AP**

HONDA

WELCOME TO A NEW ERA...
THE CIVIC DIMENSION
IT'S BIG. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

The Civic Dimension.
Enter a world of a new dimension where rules have changed. It is a class-above vehicle in performance, comfort and style with safety that surpasses the highest standards. It is unparalleled value that is now a reality.

A CLASS ABOVE
A dimension of incomparable performance, luxurious comfort and ingenious styling of a class-leading sedan. More power from:

- 1.6 3-Stage VTEC Engine
- Grade Logic Control Technology
- Front Toe-Link Control Strut and Rear Double Wishbone Suspension System
- The Civic's largest cabin space ever
- Flat Rear Floor
- Glass-mounted antenna
- MP3 capable CD player

SAFETY
Meeting the strictest international standards, Honda's G-Force Control Technology offers superior safety features:

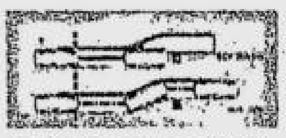
- Dual SRS Airbags
- 3-point ELR Seatbelts
- More rigid cabin structure
- Anti-lock Brake System
- Electronic Brake Distribution

LIFELONG VALUE
The new Civic, increasing its reliability and lifelong value:

- Maintenance Costs are cut by half
- Bigger Fuel Savings
- 100,000 km (3 years) warranty

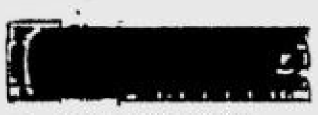
3-stage VTEC*

G-CON
G-FORCE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY



Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS)**

Dual SRS Airbags*



MP3 capable CD player**

(Front) Toe Control Link Strut Suspension (Rear) Double Wishbone Suspension

Large cabin space

CAR OF THE YEAR JAPAN 2000 2001
Japan Car of the Year Award

ALL NEW CIVIC

*VTI / VTI-S model **VTI-S model

For details, call or visit any of the following Honda dealerships nationwide.
Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. 141 Quezon Ave. Quezon City Tel. Nos. 712-6850 to 61 Fax 732-8559
Honda Cars Makati, Inc. Magallanes Commercial Center, Makati City Tel. Nos. 852-4181 to 82 Fax 852-1158
Honda Cars Alabang Madrigal Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road cor. Investment Drive, Alabang, Muntinlupa Tel. Nos.: 807-7704; 807-7978; 809-4560 Fax 809-5052
Honda Cars Pasig E. Rodriguez Ave., cor. Calle Industria, Libis, Quezon City Tel. Nos. 634-2730 to 34 Fax 637-2982
Honda Cars Kalookan, Inc. 598 EDSA, Balintawak, Kalookan City Tel. Nos. 366-5701 to 24 Fax 361-8445
Honda Cars Manila Paz M. Guanzon Ave., cor. Quirino Ave., Metro Manila Tel. Nos. 582-4548 to 52 Fax 582-4548 loc. 130
Honda Cars Shaw Blvd. cor. Pilar St. Mandaluyong city Tel. Nos. 717-1681 to 85 Fax 725-7673
www.hondaphil.com

Honda Cars Pangasinan, Inc. San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan, Tel. Nos. (075) 522-1488 to 89 Fax (075) 522-1490
Honda Cars Cebu, Inc. Nivel Hills Lahug, Cebu City, tel. No. (032) 231-3502 to 08 Fax (032) 231-4488
Honda Cars Davao, Inc. Cabaguio Ave., Davao City Tel. Nos. (082) 221-7406 to 07, 221-7042, 221-4129 Fax (082) 221-7407, 222-2171
Honda Cars Pampanga, Inc. Brgy. San Agustin, McArthur Highway, San Fernando, Tel. Nos. (045) 963-5554, 963-5119, 963-5552 Fax 963-5554
Honda Cars San Pablo, Inc. Brgy. Nicolas, San Pablo city, Laguna, Tel. Nos. (049) 562-7713 to 14 Fax (049) 562-7712
Honda Cars Negros Occidental cor. Hacienda Jose Maria Talisay, National Highway, Talisay, Negros Occidental Tel. Nos. (034) 441-1271 to 75 Fax (034) 441-1276
Honda Cars Tarlac, Inc. McArthur Highway, Barangay Sta. Cruz, Tarlac City, Tarlac Tel. Nos. (045) 982-6802 to 06 Fax (045) 982-6807
Honda Cars Cagayan Zone 1, Lower Bulua National Highway, Cagayan de Oro City Tel. Nos. (088) 858-4010 to 12, (08822) 737-835, 737-045 Fax (088) 858-4015
Honda Cars Gen. Santos, Inc. Jose Catolico, Sr. Ave., Gen. Santos City Tel. Nos. (083) 553-9796 to 97, (083) 301-3108 to 09 Fax (083) 553-9797

PARAMOUNT
GENERAL
INSURANCE
CORPORATION

Get you CTPL and Comprehensive
Motor Vehicle Insurance Online!
www.paramount.com.ph
The country's First Online Insurance Market
Log on Now
Insurance made easier
e

Incubator business hatches more than dotcoms

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NUMBER of business incubators all over the world has been dwindling largely due to the failure of the dotcoms. But not all incubators supported service-related and marketing-oriented startups that mushroomed during the gold rush fever of the New Economy.

Some, like the UP Technology Business Incubator, veer away from this.

UP-TBI project head Filemon T. Berba Jr. tells Business Monday that the dotcom experience was more like "gambling" and that these are not the kind of ventures they want to deal with.

"Many of the failures with the dotcoms happened because they created what were supposed to be companies and sell these in terms of multiples of revenue and not bottomline," Berba says. "At a certain point, the investors would want some bottomline—profits—and these are not the kind of companies that pay."

Berba stresses that the UP-TBI, a joint experimental facility of the University of the Philippines and the Ayala Foundation Inc., is not the type of a business incubator where investors hope to multiply their money and then get out quickly.

"This is not our concept here. We want to develop technology-based initiatives with a more substantial relationship with the university," says Berba, who used to teach subjects in UP's MBA program.

UP Technology Business Incubator in Quezon City.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

FILEMON Berba Jr., Michie Barcelon of Ayala Foundation and Rafael Mantaring.

The UP connection

Berba says the UP connection is what makes the incubator different from others. This is where everything starts as far as the incubator is concerned.

One of the objectives of the project is to encourage collaboration between the academic community and technology industry. For Ayala Foundation, the main drive is to be involved in such a collaboration.

On the other hand, UP-TBI is not strictly for business incubation. It is designed to serve, of course, startups, which may be small companies or special groups within larger companies. The facility was also established to serve companies that wish to locate select research and development activities in the UP campus.

Providers of research and development services and technology venture fund are also welcome to locate in the facility.

"This is not just a place for small-scale IT entrepreneurs. We also want to attract large-scale global IT companies to bring their development activities here," says Rafael V. Mantaring, who helps Berba run UP-TBI.

Mantaring says they want to establish and IT community with an environment that is eco-friendly, has multi-media computation capabilities, business and training centers and professional facilities management.

A former member of UP's engineering faculty, Mantaring says they will also ensure reliable utilities and supplies and access to UP's IT experts and facilities.

UP's crop of experts from its different colleges and its high-speed network infrastructure is the biggest advantage of the TBI over other technoparks. With such resources, one can actually soft-start certain activities without spending for equipment just to test an idea.

"Locators can test their projects in a lab here, and when there's something in it, then the time to invest comes," Mantaring explains.

What's hatching

Most things at UP-TBI are in the conception stage. In fact, the facility is itself a startup of sort. UP and Ayala Foundation signed up for an agreement only in June last year.

Located at the five-hectare UP Technopark at the corner of CP Garcia and Katipunan avenues, the incubator has so far four locators under its wings.

Two of these are Ayala subsidiaries. One is IMI-Ayala, the design group of Integrated Microelectronic Inc. that is tied up with UP. This is involved in developing Internet appliances. It aims to develop Internet-based telephony, which may use voice and voicemail. One can essentially go long-distance using the appliance.

"The locator is also toying around with many other ideas although these are just forays in the technology field," Berba says. "Not all the things that we do will result in a commercial application, but we are building a technology base of competency."

Another locator is Ideafarm. People who have ideas but cannot yet start a facility of their own can go to Ideafarm. Basically, this locator is an incubator within an incubator.

Two other locators are moving in in the facility within a month. i-Gate is developing environmental control units for telecom installations. Lessons Inc., on the other hand, aims to establish a community of learners through the Internet. Lessons' possible subscribers, gradeschoolers (and their parents), can study their lessons and do their homework through the Internet since these are programmed in the Net.

Looking for a magnet

Berba says that at this stage, UP-TBI is still looking for a magnet locator—one that can attract others because of its success, its technology and its need and interest to tie up with the university.

"Once we have a magnet locator, everything else grow with it," the project head says.

Berba reveals that they are trying to build not just a UP-based IT community, but a "Katipunan community." He says they see a big potential of also connecting with Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College.

He also clarifies that their doors are not closed to dotcoms.

"Every application will go through a evaluation committee. "We just don't want people to come here and disappear in three months."

At UP-TBI, the stress is on value-creation in new and emerging technologies such as information and communication technology. The facility also encourages products and services in support of such technology.

The incubator may be clear on the kind of enterprises it wants to support, but it is definitely worth a try to seek shelter there.

As Berba himself says, "You never know what ideas might work."

The
suking TIN
b
We entertain special orders
MARKET BUYS
WHITE ONION
69.50
120.00
13.50
12.50

Banks can compel firms to respect, protect environment

THE SAYING goes that the environment is something we inherit and keep in trust for the next generation. We should take care of it to make sure that the next generation survives.

At the state the environment is in right now with hundreds of plant and animal species dying everyday, environmental protection has become a global concern. It calls for a unified action from all sectors.

Considering the enormity of the task, the Land Bank of the Philippines heeded the global call for saving the environment as early as 1991. Its decision to play an active role in this arena was borne out of the belief that financial institutions have the obligation to promote sustainable development.

Financial institutions, specifically banks, have two crucial roles as far as environmental protection is concerned, according to Landbank.

First, banks provide the necessary financial support to implement environmental projects. These include the implementation of cleaner production technologies, treatment projects and environmental amelioration projects.

Second, as provider of credit, banks are in the best position to require companies to comply with loan conditions that will address the environmental soundness of projects they implement. This is through integrating environmental risk management as part of the banks' loan evaluation process.

Given these roles, it is clear that financial institutions command a big responsibility in making companies "toe the environmental line."

In a collective effort, banks can agree to deny loan applications for projects that do not comply with environmental requirements. This way, companies will have no choice but to adhere to regulations that favor the environment.

Unfortunately, only a handful of banks are actively involved in financing environmental projects as well as integrating environmental soundness as a criterion for financing projects.

Landbank is among these few financial institutions that have included environmental concerns in their corporate thrusts. Over the years, Landbank has actively sourced credit facilities from multilateral and bilateral agencies for programs that promote sustainable development.

These projects include the Asian Development Bank-Air Pollution Control Credit Facility, the World Bank-funded Countryside Loan Fund Programs, and the Local Government Unit Credit Facility funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

Landbank was also the first bank in the country to set up an environment unit. This unit is tasked to evaluate whether projects funded under Landbank's special financing programs are environmentally sound.

Issues and constraints

Landbank observed that despite the availability of attractive financing windows for environmental projects, there is still limited access and availment of these programs. There are three reasons for these.

First is the lack of interest of enterprises to undertake environmental projects. This stems from the lack of understanding that environmental projects—especially cleaner production initiatives—reduce operational costs with the subsequent savings on raw materials and energy, among others.

Second is the lenient enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. Despite the existence of legal and institutional frameworks for environmental protection and natural resource conservation, there are problems in enforcing them.

This poor implementation and even the inappropriateness of the penal provisions pose as major setbacks in promoting sustainable development.

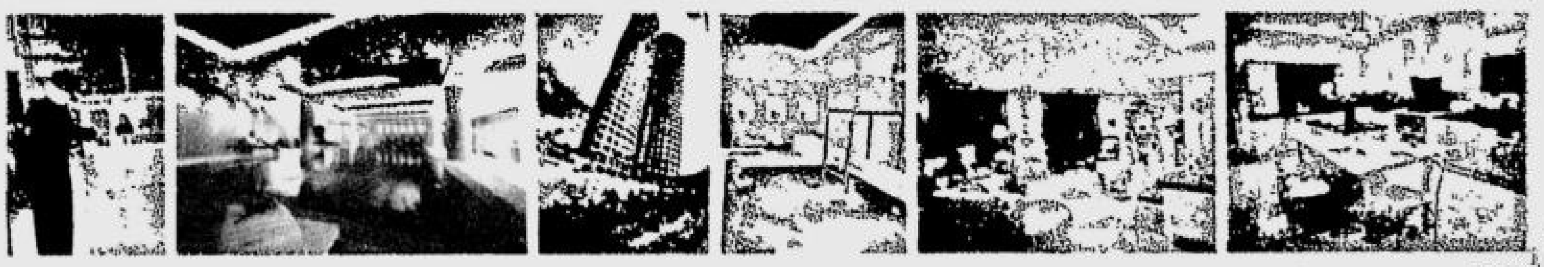
Third is the difficulty in justifying profitability of environmental projects. Most companies find it hard to translate into quantifiable terms the advantages of environmentally sound projects.

But despite these constraints, we believe that environmental undertakings—in the long run—will increase profitability. Once the business sector proves that this can indeed happen, more financial institutions will be drawn to provide funds for such activities.

The concerted efforts of all stakeholders, coupled with the government's commitment and strong implementation of cleaner production initiatives, will further pave the way for a flourishing, yet environmentally concerned, business operations.

In its own way, Landbank is trying to spearhead this effort to finance environment-friendly projects. The bank hopes that more firms in the financial services industry will follow suit and join this worthy cause.

(The article is based on the closing remarks of Landbank president and CEO Gary B. Teves at the 3rd Asia Pacific Roundtable on Cleaner Production on March 2, 2001 at Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong.)



NOW OPEN FOR SALE *or* LEASE

Meridien Development Group proudly announces the opening of

Essensa, the Most Desirable Residence in the Philippines.

Essensa East Forbes is a home for those who expect only the best. Its modern design and interiors is complemented by an extensive array of superior features and 5-star hotel services not found anywhere else.

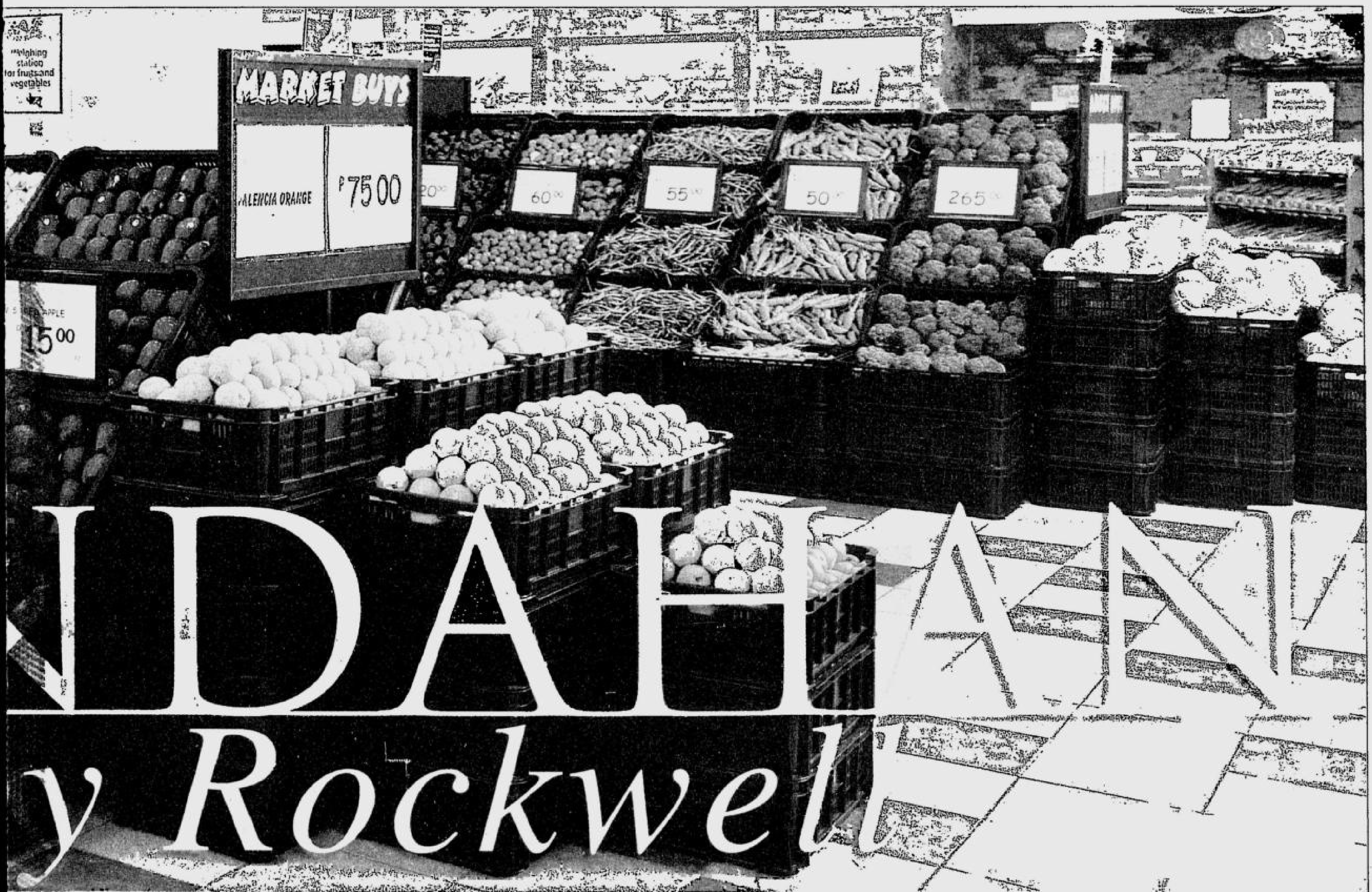
Resident Services: Full time Resident Manager • 24 Hour Concierge • First Class Gym and Spa Facilities • Doorman • Elevator Attendant • Housekeeping, Maid and Dry Cleaning • Maintenance • Security • Full service Club Staff

Building Features: Spacious 290 square meter units • Quality Belgium maple wood floors • Fully equipped Gourmet Kitchen complete with elegant wood cabinetry, granite countertops, Sub-zero brand refrigerators, Miele ovens, cooktops, dishwashers and rangehoods • Villeroy and Boch bathroom accessories and fixtures • The Club at Essensa featuring a modern gym, jacuzzi, separate men and women lockers, saunas, massage and steam rooms • Outdoor swimming pool • Indoor heated lap pool • Car wash center

ESSENSA
EAST FORBES
Fifth Avenue corner 21st Drive,
Fort Bonifacio Global City

Developer
Builder
NOVA
Exclusive Sales & Leasing Manager
CENTURY PROPERTIES, INC.

For inquiries, please call:
840-4483 to 85
815-1223 & 31



When your neighborhood grocer just happens to be Rustan's Fresh, you know that you're in a community that takes the good life pretty seriously. You'll find Rustan's Fresh anchoring the Concourse Level of the Power Plant Mall. Stroll around and get a feel of the neighborhood.

If you enjoy it, it might interest you to know that there are select residential apartments still available – and ready for moving in. Ask about the new financing terms and you may be in for an even more pleasant surprise.

Rockwell Information Center, Rockwell Drive cor. Estrella St. Makati City Tel. 890-6888
www.e-rockwell.com

Rockwell Center

MEGALINK at 11

SONNY GUEVARRA, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

MegaLink rides high on E-banking with new services

MEGALINK, a major ATM consortium in the country today, has forged partnerships with the number one Philippine search engine Yehey.Com, Equitable Card Network, Union Bank of the Philippines, and 1TIME Payment of United Coconut Planters Bank to allow its members to have financial transactions on the Internet.

Also joining MegaLink as partners in debit bills payment services are Union Bank VISA, ING Life Insurance, Pacific Internet and PhilOnline.

Paying for bills from these companies are made easier by using their MegaLink ATM card on any ATM, on the phone and soon, on the Internet.

For the new millennium, MegaLink will continue to broaden and strengthen the reach and range of its services.

MegaLink recently upgraded to the robust Oasis IST software running on the fault tolerant Stratus Continuum hardware. With the switch, services throughout the ATM consortium are expected to continue to be highly reliable and even more dynamic with the system's multiple delivery channels adaptability. The investment also ensures the smooth introduction of new services and applications without disrupting ongoing transactions throughout the day.

Through its interconnection with BancNet and Expressnet, MegaLink cardholders are also offered the convenience of transacting in virtually all ATMs across the country. Interconnections with global institutions also allow international transactions through the MegaLink network.

"MegaLink continues to uphold its service standards parallel to the best global standards with its members and partner institutions. Various representatives of member banks from business, technology and operations actively participate in the development of new services through updated policies and procedures covering business, security, technical and customer service requirements," said Cris Santillan, MegaLink General Manager.

Prior to implementation, MegaLink's services are certified by member banks' auditors to ensure protection and customer satisfaction of cardholders.

"MegaLink has proven itself as a trusted institution that delivers value-added services in electronic banking. Account holders, member banks and institutions look to us for the security and reliability of their cardholder and transaction information," she added.

Santillan also cited MegaLink's automated back office system that helped improve efficiencies in coordination, reconciliation, support and analysis among its member

MEGALINK/ C9

My ticket to **banking** at home and **overseas**

Maybank Inter-Country ATM Card

Philippines
Malaysia
Singapore
Brunei

Philippines
Brunei
Malaysia
Singapore

Maybank gives me convenient ATM services in more countries with the Maybank Inter-Country ATM. With access through over 800 ATMs in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, my Maybank Inter-Country ATM Card lets me:

- **Check my account balance**
- **Withdraw in the currency of the country I am in**
- **Transfer funds between my linked accounts**

Even my friends who are based in these 4 countries and have Maybank ATM accounts there enjoy the same services. Soon, more inter-country services will be available:

- **Remittance of funds (especially for Overseas Filipino Workers)**
- **Third party fund transfers**

Maybank really goes the distance to give me banking convenience wherever I go. That's why Maybank is my bank.
For inquiries, visit any of Maybank's over 50 branches nationwide or call 521-7451.

Maybank
Best Domestic Bank in Malaysia
Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2000.

MEGALINK Member PDIC. Deposits Insured up to P100,000

Maybank Inter-Country ATM Link: Most beneficial to travelers and overseas workers

Customer study confirms benefits of service for travelers and OFWs

THE MAYBANK Inter-Country ATM Link, enabling Maybank ATM cardholders to perform international banking transactions, is seen to be most beneficial to travelers and Filipinos working abroad. This was one of the key findings confirmed in a recently-conducted study on Maybank customers. The Maybank Inter-Country ATM Link which was activated just recently, links the Maybank Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) in Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. The link will make it possible for Maybank depositors in any of these countries to conveniently transact their accounts online, even if they are in the other three countries. As such, depositors of Maybank Philippines visiting these three other countries can use Maybank ATMs in that particular country to inquire online, know their balance, transfer funds between their linked accounts and even withdraw conveniently, safely and instantly from their Maybank accounts in the Philippines.

For tourists and business travelers, the facility will prove useful for situations that require the immediate or unforeseen need for extra cash and dispel the hassles of having to convert cash into foreign currency before traveling. Moreover, it will eliminate the risk of bringing along large amounts of cash, which is prone to loss or theft.

In the near future, thousands of professional and other Filipino workers and employees in Malaysia, Singapore or Brunei and their local families stand to benefit from the facility. The employed Filipinos in these countries can simply open Maybank accounts in that country then easily transfer fund from their accounts to their families' accounts in Maybank Philippines safely and conveniently. This innovative approach will prove to be safer, faster and substantially improve the traditional manner of remitting funds.

More useful services will soon be offered using the Maybank Inter-Country ATM Link infrastructure. They will include third party fund transfers, remittance services, Pin changes, third party payments to credit card and loan accounts and bill payments to payee corporations. This service which is unique to the Maybank Group, leverages on the technological capabilities of Maybank as well as its strong presence in the region. Currently, there are more than 800 ATMs of the Maybank Group in the Philppines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. In the Philippines, the ATMs of Maybank are likewise part of Megalink, the biggest ATM network in the country.

The introduction of the Inter-Country ATM Link is another milestone in Maybank's venture into electronic banking. In the past, it has pioneered the introduction and use of ATMs and other advanced electronic banking facilities including phone banking and Internet banking in Malaysia. This venture was capped by the "Bank of the Year" in Malaysia award bestowed on Maybank by the prestigious, London-based banking magazine, "The Banker."

Backed by more than US$34 billion in assets, Maybank is the largest banking and financial services group in Malaysia. It is ranked among the top 20 banks in Asia and among the top 150 banks in the world. Making its presence felt in the Philippines, Maybank is the first 100 percent-owned foreign commercial bank that has the most extensive reach with more than 50 branches nationwide. Among the countries where it is present, Maybank has the most number of branches in the Philippines – next only to the bank's 300 branches in Malaysia.

ADVT.

6th Philippine electronic banking conference on April 19

MEGALINK's sixth Philippine Electronic Banking Conference takes on the impact of the Internet on electronic banking, security and regulatory issues, financial products and services through mobile channels and the role of banks in B2B procurement on April 19 at the New World Renaissance Hotel.

The whole-day conference and exhibition has sponsors and exhibitors that include Computer Data Vision, Inc., eBworx, Equitable Card Network, Equicom and Stratus, Fujitsu, Infoserve, PLDT, Prime Systems Plus and Rational (Jupiter Systems). Lotus Notes and IBM Philippines will host the luncheon session.

The first speaker is Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Managing Director Teresita Hatta who tackles "Regulatory Issues, Initiatives and Opportunities in eCommerce and eBanking." Hatta will explain the BSP's plans and ongoing efforts to support bank initiatives in providing ebanking convenience to their clients.

Union Bank of the Philippines Chairman and CEO Justo O. Ortiz and First eBank Chief Information Officer Primo B. Aguas will discuss "Online Banking-Pinoy Style" for the second session.

As heads of the leading banks engaged in Internet banking, these top executives will talk about the challenges of setting up, operating and marketing online banking. They will also take up the bank's role in the New Economy, the opportunities and potential for online banking, and strategies and directions for the 21st century.

The first afternoon session will have Wolfpac Country Manager Albert P. Dela Cruz bringing participants up to date on transaction security issues over the Internet and other channels as he discusses "Cyber Security for Internet and Mobile Delivery Channels." Security concerns are brought to light and participants will also learn of the available measures, the standards and technologies to ensure that information and transactions are safely transmitted and conducted. Dela Cruz will also present case studies and applications of these security measures.

This will be followed by BayanTrade.com Inc. President Carol E. Carreon as she presents "The Role of Banks in B2B eProcurement." Carreon will answer how a buyer/supplier participates and benefits from B2B exchanges and how a bank can enable its clients to engage in and benefit from B2B transactions. She will also discuss the opportunities and benefits for a bank in eProcurement.

Alex Ibasco, Development Head of the SMART Communications Inc. M-Commerce Business, will follow with "Mobile Banking and Mobile-Based Financial Transactions." He will present the trends and directions in mobile commerce and applications, the market potential for these applications, opportunities and benefits for the banks and business models for these applications.

"Smart Cards in the Philippines" will be discussed next by PLDT Senior Vice President Claro C. Ramirez and Assistant Vice President Jonel Ladaban. They will present the strategies and directions of smart cards in the country and how banks can participate and gain benefits from this technology.

The last session is on "E-Syndication: Driving New Financial Services" from Nicky Choo, Vice President for Revenue Streams of Finesse Alliance and Asia Online. He will present the evolving market forces driving E-Syndication, and the business and technology infrastructure required to respond to the changing customer requirements and the regional banks' response to address the market.

The 6th Philippine Electronic Banking Conference and Exhibition is part of MegaLink's 11th anniversary celebration and commitment to serving the industry by providing an annual venue for information exchange on trends, issues and innovations.

ATM networks evolve to face competition amid high-tech growth

NEW technologies have boosted the range of financial services and are changing the relationships between banks and their customers.

Far from being swept away by the rise of new technology, the ATM networks are likewise evolving in their role in financial service delivery.

MegaLink, one of the country's ATM networks, has forged partnerships and strategic alliances to be able to offer new transaction services, initially on the Internet. These partnerships will be announced during MegaLink's 11th anniversary celebration today.

MegaLink Chairman and UCPB Chairman and CEO Jeronimo U. Kilayko and MegaLink President and Equitable PCIBank Co-Chairman Antonio L. Go said MegaLink has changed its role and its direction for the coming years.

MegaLink has been in the business of connecting banks in an environment of shared resources. Banks are able to serve their customers even at sites where they do not have a branch or ATM because of their connection to MegaLink. That connection has helped member banks bring convenience at minimal cost to society in general.

"ATMs (Automated Teller Machines) and POS (point of sale) terminals are no longer the only ways for an ATM network to service cardholders. New account and card products, either pre-paid or stored value in nature, have emerged from non-traditional issuers like banks. New entrants in the delivery of similar financial products are emerging from non-financial industries, such as telecommunications," said Mr. Go.

KILAYKO

"MegaLink's traditional realm is changing and expanding with the information and telecommunication revolution for more opportunities and challenges," added Mr. Kilayko. "MegaLink is rising to meet these challenges by focusing on its roles as a complementary and strategic partner of the banks. Consistent with the rationale of why MegaLink was formed back in 1989, we will focus on providing the framework for shared services that banks cannot do on their own. MegaLink does not compete with banks or other strategic providers. Rather, it is the hub for synergistic collaboration for competing banks and yet having strategic alliances with each other and other parties in order to serve their customers better."

The officers agreed that MegaLink would evolve further by leveraging on its existing connections to member banks and other partners to provide new services. Part of that evolution will mean eventually routing financial transactions and information originated at delivery channels like the Internet, mobile phones and POS terminals owned by non-financial industry players, aggregate service providers and new economy infrastructure providers.

GO

"MegaLink's 11 years of operations has earned it the trust of its cardholders, banks, partner institutions and the ATM industry it helped create," said Mr. Go. "Despite these changes, security and reliability for the accountholder's transactions will always be the primary thrust of the network. Constant improvements on credit risk management and more efficient settlement procedures are also actively pursued."

Mr. Kilayko cited the consortium's leadership through CEOs as a distinct advantage for banks looking at competing in the new economy. MegaLink is jointly managed by CEOs of member banks. "There have been changes in names and faces due to the natural progression since leadership and officer positions are rotated annually, and also due to the change in leadership in the individual banks," he explained. "But it has led MegaLink to be aligned with the direction of the banking industry. CEOs agree on policy decisions and let technology and operations abide and work with such decisions."

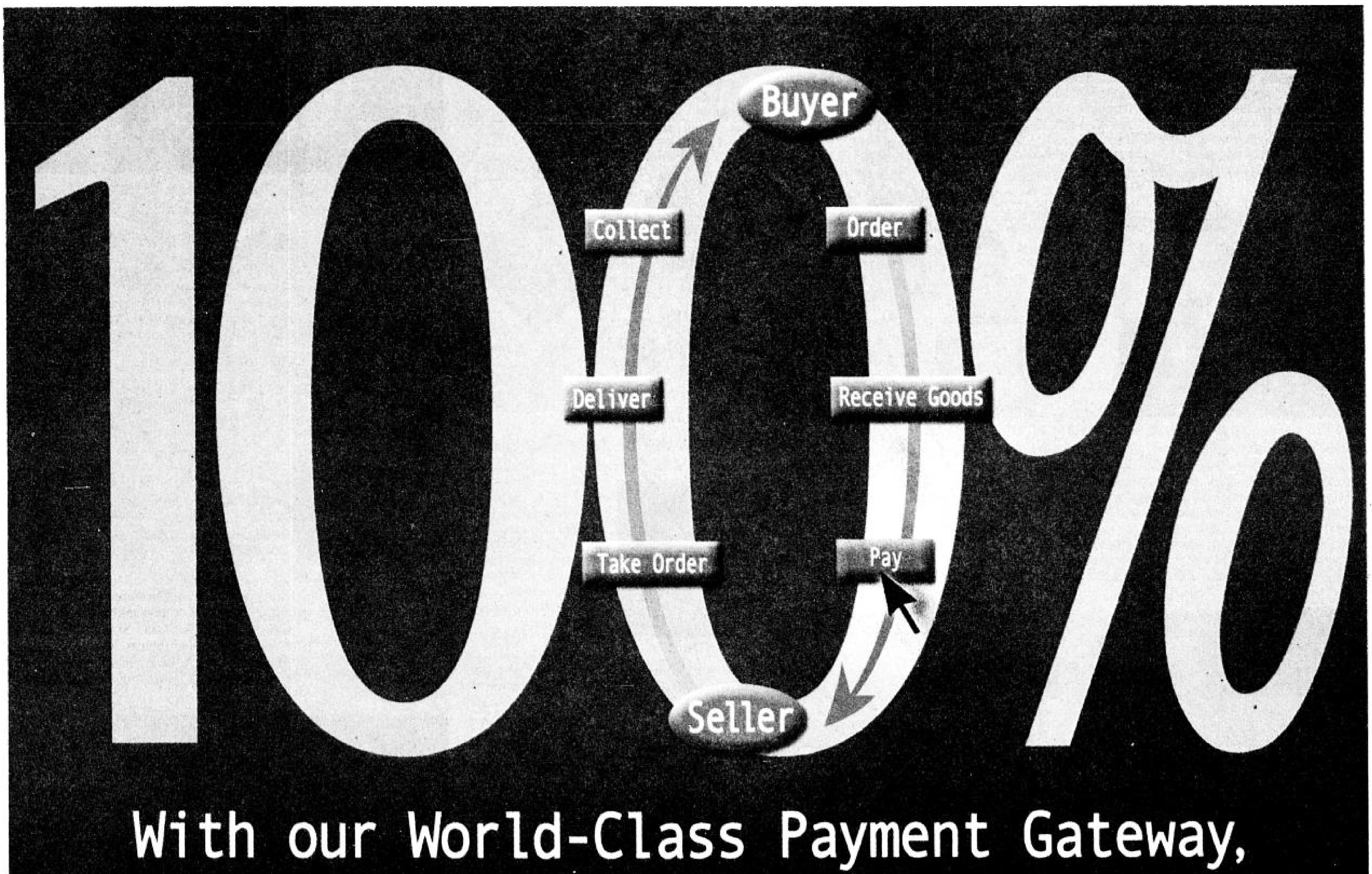
Megalink rides . . .

(From page C8)

banks' operations department. These systems include the MegaLink-wide Intranet, available to all its member banks, making it more beneficial to the clients and partner institutions.

Other systems are the Centralized HelpDesk system, Automated Reconciliation and Settlement System, Daily Transaction Log Query System and Terminal Information System.

MegaLink member banks include Equitable-PCIBank, Philippine National Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Global Business Bank, Union Bank of the Philippines, Bank of Commerce, International Exchange Bank, Prudential Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Premiere Development Bank, Philippine Veterans Bank, Insular Savings Bank, Asiatrust Bank, Keppel Bank Philippines, LBC Bank, Traders Royal Bank, DBS Bank, Equitable Savings Bank, Ecology Bank, Philam Savings Bank, Queen City Development Bank, Robinsons Savings Bank, Active Bank, All Asia Bank and Maybank.



With our World-Class Payment Gateway,
B2B transactions are now completely online.

At last, no more missing link in the b2b supply chain. From canvassing to payment, from start to finish, all your transactions at PhilBX are now 100% online. • With our world-class payment gateway, we're transforming the way companies are connected and do business together.

www.unionbankph.com philbx powered by UNIONBANK

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Jollibee supports Bantay Bata in upholding children's rights

IN AN effort to stop child abuse, the ABS-CBN Foundation has launched "Bantay Bata 163," a child welfare program that rescues and rehabilitates sick and abused children.

Fastfood leader Jollibee, in line with its commitment towards being a child-friendly company, fully supports this endeavor. recently, Bantay Bata 163 celebrated its fourth anniversary via "Pista ng Bata." Jollibee once again joined the ABS-CBN Foundation in making this celebration a truly memorable and happy event for some 3,000 children from various Metro Manila organziations.

The "Pista ng Bata" party, held at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife, consisted of fun activities such as children's choirs and magic acts as well as langhap-sarap food from Jollibee. The Jollibee mascot performed special dance numbers which did not fail to delight both kids and adults.

APAT NA TAON NYA
BANTAY BATA 163

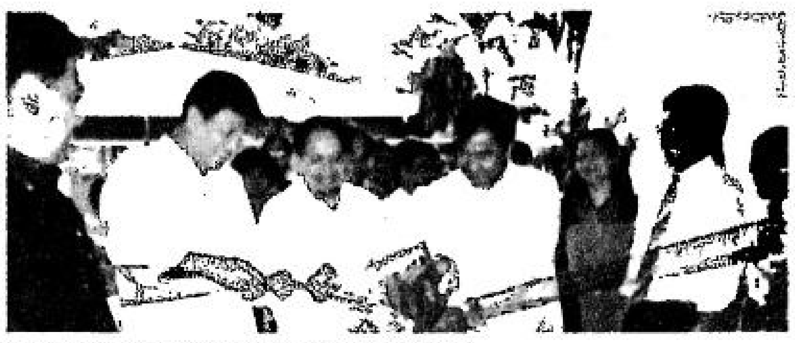
KIDS entertainig kids

"Jollibee strongly supports Bantay Bata 163 in upholding children's rights and stopping child abuse," said Kay Segismundo, Jollibee events officer. "The abused children, who at such young ages have already gone through so much suffering, need our love and support. By making them happy on this special day, we are glad to be of help even in our own small way."

For the past four years, Jollibee has provided meals and entertainment for Bantay Bata 163's celebration. Previous parties were held in the Quezon Memorial Circle, Manila Zoo and Nayong Pilipino.

Apart from Bantay Bata 163, Jollibee has spearheaded numerous children's programs of its own such as its award-winning "Kaya Mo, Kid!" campaign that endeavors to instill confidence among the Filipino youth via various skills and values-laden activities. Under the campaign, competitions like the "Kaya Mong Mag-Drawing, Kid!," "Kaya Mong Sumulat, Kid!" "Kaya Mong Lumikhá, Kid!" and last year's "Kaya Mong Magkuwento, Kid!" were launched to hone the Filipino child's skills in writing, drawing, scrap art making and storybook writing and illustrating, respectively.

"A Blow Out on Children's Day (ABCD)," a yearly children's party celebrating National Chidlren's Month, and "MaAga ang Pasko," a toy and book drive with Jollibee celebrity endorser Aga Muhlach, are two other well-known children's programs which Jollibee spearheads.



SUSTEC OFFICE INAUGURATION

The Sustainable Ecosystems International Corporation (Sustec), one of the country's leading consultancy firm providing natural resources and environmental management services, recently blessed and inaugurated its new office at 19 A. Matimtiman St., Diliman, Quezon City. Shown cutting the ceremonial ribbon is Representative Heherson T. Alvarez of Isabela, a noted environmentalist, assisted by DENR Undersecretary Ramon Paje (second from left) and Ricardo M. Umali, president and CEO of Sustec (third from left).

MINI MALL AGREEMENT

One Mercedes Plaza (OMP), a mini mall soon to open along Mercedes Avenue in Pasig City, recently inked an agreement with Rustan's Express Lane. The two-story commercial complex in Mercedes Avenue in Pasig City will house a variety of retail stores, fast food and service-oriented shops. Rustan's Express Lane will occupy 808 sqm at the ground floor main entrance. At the contract signing are (from left) OMP building administrator Carlos Alincastre, Rustan Supermarkets AVP for marketing Beth Inting and OMP executive assistant Nancy Debil. Aside from Rustan's, OMP has likewise sealed lease agreements with Jollibee, BPI Express Banking Center, Consumer Drug, and Mr, Quickie.

Civic anti-graft commission proposed

THE INSTITUTE for Popular Democracy (IPD) called upon the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to form a civic anti-graft commission.

In a forum "The Anti-Graft Commission: Will it Work?" sponsored by the IPD and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), Dr. Joel Rocamora, executive director of IPD proposed the formation of a civic anti-corruption body that would have legislative basis.

"This is crucial so it's separate from the President and the partisanship of her political party," Rocamora stressed. To fit the bill, he proposed that the NACC be revived, strengthened and headed by a member of civil society with an unblemished record.

Rocamora also called on President Arroyo to send a clear message against corruption. Rocamora said former President Estrada should be convicted and jailed for his crimes. "We can't do anything else without first doing this," Rocamora added.

Other speakers in the forum were Dr. Eduardo T. Gonzales, DAP president, who presented a "Jumpstart Anti-Corruption Program," the components of which were already being implemented, Gonzales noted.

Among these are an Asian Development Bank (ADB)-funded Report Card Survey (RCS) of performing government officials, a Vulnerability Index (CVI) to assess government agencies that are particularly vulnerable to corruption, and a DBM-initiated procurement watch to implement reforms in procurement of goods and services.

Other guests in the forum were lawyer Haydee Yorac, Vicente Paterno, (chair and president, Philippine Seven Corporation), and Dr. Jose Edgardo L. Campos (senior strategy advisor for public sector reform, DBM-Agile).

The IPD-DAP forum was held as part of efforts by the DAP towards effecting more honest, more responsive and effective governance in the country.

Delta Faucet makes waves worldwide

In pursuit of world-class quality, Delta Faucet has developed the Delta Synergy line.

The creation of the Delta Synergy line proves the company's prowess in the international market. To achieve the goal of a faucet design embodying fashion and functionality, renowned faucet designer Tony Spangler was tapped to design the Synergy line. Spangler has had more than two decades of experience and owns over 30 design patents.

Spangler and Delta acquired a distinctive European flair with its seamless, curving lines on the long spout and single handle. The design was meticulously crafted to match the modern interiors of today's modern kitchen and bathroom. Not only that, the Delta Synergy line possesses all of Delta Faucet's best features.

DOT SECRETARY OPENS TRAVEL TOUR EXPO 2001

Amidst the cherry blossoms of the Universal Holidays Inc. booth are (seated from left) Travel Tour Expo 2001 co-chair Annette Feliciano, DOT Secretary Richard Gordon, Philippine Star EVP Grace Glory Go, and PTAA president Ricky Ordoñez, during the recent Travel Tour Expo 2001 at the SM Megatrade. The country's biggest travel event had more than 200 exhibitors showcasing the best of domestic and international tourism. Standing behind are UHI staffers, PTAA VP-Outbound Mila Suarez, and PR practitioner Bob Zozobrado.

PHONES AND PALM PILOTS FROM CITIBANK

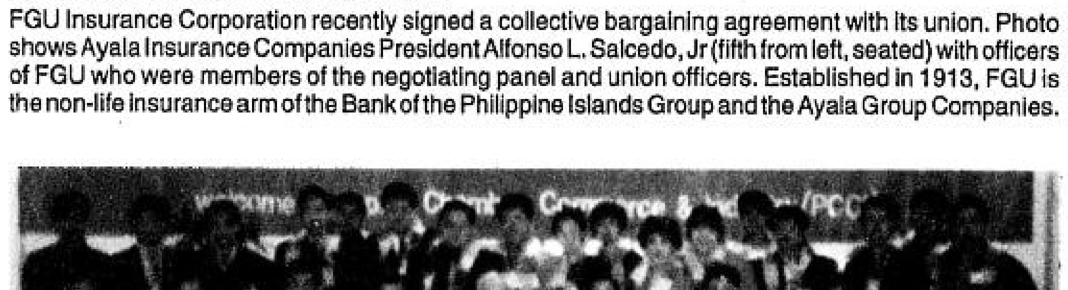
Over 300 new Citibank credit cardholders have brought home Nokia 3310s and Palm m100s in the ongoing Citibank "5+5" promotion. The largest credit card issuer is giving away five Nokia 3310s and five Palm m100s daily to new and approved applications. Simply get a Citibank credit card before March 14, 2001 and you qualify for the daily raffle. Citibank AVP for cards marketing Jenny Lacerna (center) is flanked by some of the winners, from left, Rosito Pingol, Dr. Elaine Frances Lim Rivera, Mary Grace Azada, and Rowena Genobiagon. For more information, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999 or connect to the Citi at www.citibank.com.ph.

WATERS-AMC ANNUAL CONVENTION

Waters Philippines-AMC (Alfa Metalcraft Corporation) recently awarded the top distributors for 2000 at the Waters-AMC 6th Annual National Distributors Convention held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Photo shows Waters-AMC president and CEO Josiah L. Go (extreme left) with awardees: Carlo Rex and Ludy Gaddi, top servicing distributors; Romy and Cristy Santos, top in personal multiplier activation and top in group sales; Angelina Chan, top in personal sales; and Chiqui Escareal-Go, AMC executive director. Waters Philippines distributes the Waters Bio Mineral Pot, a two-in-one water purifier and mineralizer that serves as a home water refilling station. The company is a member of the Waters Asia group of companies engaged in the distribution of bio mineral pots through multi-level network marketing. Its sister company, Health Is Life, is the exclusive local distributor of the AMC stainless steel cookware that allows cooking without water and frying without lard.

FGU SIGNS CBA WITH UNION

FGU Insurance Corporation recently signed a collective bargaining agreement with its union. Photo shows Ayala Insurance Companies President Alfonso L. Salcedo, Jr (fifth from left, seated) with officers of FGU who were members of the negotiating panel and union officers. Established in 1913, FGU is the non-life insurance arm of the Bank of the Philippine Islands Group and the Ayala Group Companies.



SHOE GROUP AT TAIPEI SHOW

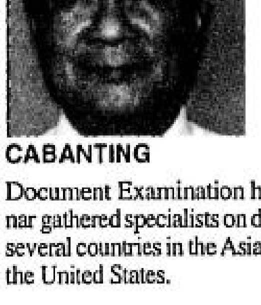
The Le Donne-Bolzano Shoe Group recently participated in a trade mission to the International Taipei Shoes Show Spring and Summer 2001 in Taiwan. Le Donne Shoes managing director, Edwin C. Salonga, says the mission aimed to add to the intensified product development research of Le Donne to service the growing need of Filipinos for better styles and quality shoes. Salonga says the show also allowed local companies to be apprised of the latest developments in shoe design and technology. The trade mission was comprised of Filipino retailers, manufacturers, leather tanners and shoe supply traders. Photo shows delegates led by Valentin Khoe, PCCI chair for trade; William Castro, president of Gibi Footwear and Edwin C. Salonga, managing director of Le Donne Shoes.

BITS & Clips

Monthly alumni meetings

The Northwestern Alumni Association of the Philippines held its regular monthly meeting at Café J in Makati Feb. 26. Guest speaker was Raymond Lauchengco speaking on photography. The club holds its next monthly meeting on March 26.

BID officer in Japan seminar



CABANTING

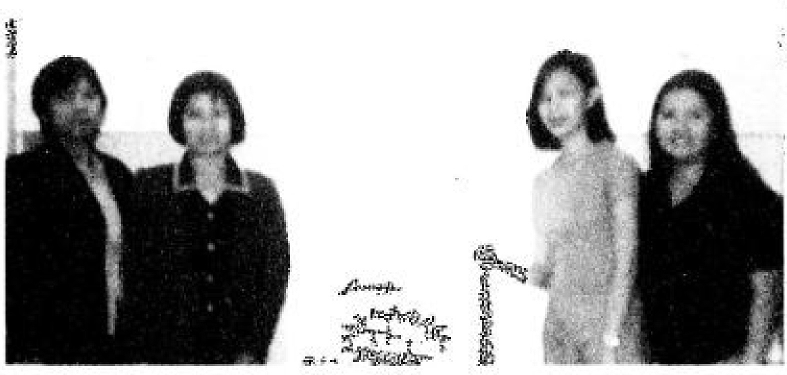
AN airport immigration official was chosen as the Philippine representative to a three-day seminar on immigration document examination in Japan. Leonardo O. Cabanting, deputy head supervisor of the Bureau of Immigration at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, was among the participants in the 6th Seminar on Document Examination held Feb. 20-23. The seminar gathered specialists on document examination from several countries in the Asia Pacific region, Canada and the United States.

Pre-bar review offered

THE COSMOPOLITAN Review Center (CRC) will conduct the regular pre-bar review for the 2001 bar exams at the following venues: Regional Office, Candahug, Palo, Leyte, March 24, 2001; University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, Bacolod City, March 31, 2001; Silliman University, Dumaguete City, April 7, 2001; and University of San Carlos, Cebu City, April 20, 2001. Review classes in Manila will start April 28, 2001. Further details are available at the Cosmopolitan Review Center, Suites 804-809 Ermita Center Building, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila.

Summer storytelling workshop

FUN and excitement await kids this summer as Adarna House, the country's first children's book publisher, stages Kwentong Adarna: Summer Storytelling and Workshop for Kids from April 18 to May 18, 2001. Kwentong Adarna offers storytelling sessions, workshops and activities that encourage appreciation of Philippine art, culture and history. For inquiries and pre-registration, call Odette or Ghie at 410-5200 or email marketing@adarna.com.ph.



FRESHAIRE PROMO

Freshaire, the original hair straightening specialist, recently drew 100 winners in its 1st monthly draw in January in Freshsaire's "Easy To Join, Easy To Win" raffle. Shown from left are: Veronica Herrero, Freshaire operations manager; Remy Cuenca, DTI representative; Jhoanne Torres, Freshaire advertising assistant; and Eliza Mendoza, Freshaire marketing assistant.

SBARRO RAFFLE DRAW

Sbarro the Italian Eatery has just concluded its raffle promo "PizzaPastaPrize...All!" Winners were chosen during the draw held Jan. 27 at the Sbarro SM Megamall branch. Present were (from left) Josephine Canonizado, Mutya ng Pilipinas 2000; Martin Rodriguez, operations director and Ritchie Ocampo, Mutya ng Pilipinas 1999. Sbarro gave away Wega TV sets, Nokia phones, DVD players and Playstation 2 game consoles. Sbarro the Italian Eatery also has branches at SM City, Glorietta 2, Robinsons Place and Festival Supermall.

Bayer finds globalization pill hard to swallow

LEVERKUSEN, Germany—As the saying goes, if you throw a stone in Leverkusen, you hit someone who works for Bayer.

Germany's largest drug firm, famous for inventing Aspirin a century ago, is everywhere in this city skirting the Ruhr region, the country's industrial heartland. Walk down the main pedestrian zone and you will find the Bayer-owned department store with its slogan "All the Best for Leverkusen."

Take in a match of the town's top division soccer club, go to the theater or music hall, and you'll be enjoying an institution owned or funded by the company.

Bayer's omnipresence in Leverkusen, however, might be under threat as it falls behind key rivals in the consolidation game at a time when forces of globalization are pounding harder than ever on the door of Deutschland AG.

Bayer employees seem remarkably up to date on rumors that pharmaceutical giants such as Switzerland's Roche want to buy up their firm, sell its less profitable chemicals divisions and cut jobs.

Many in this town of 160,000, which gets nearly a quarter of its tax revenue from the company, fear the future would be bleak if Bayer's world-famous circle logo were to disappear from the roof of the company's headquarters.

"Leverkusen without Bayer is not imaginable. I think if the Bayer cross disappeared a lot of people would have a problem with that," said Heinz-Peter Schaaf, a 48-year-old foreman at a Bayer power plant.

Takeover specter

Rumors of a foreign takeover heightened last December when Bayer asked investment banks Credit Suisse First Boston and Deutsche Bank to advise on strategic options—a code name for a defensce strategy against a hostile takeover.

Europe's largest drug firm only a few decades ago, Bayer's refusal to take part in the cross-border consolidation of the industry puts it well behind top firms in terms of sales and market value, analysts say.

It ranks around 15 in the world based on sales of about five billion euros ($4.65 billion).

With a market value of $35.91 billion, it is dwarfed by GlaxoSmithKline Plc., the world's largest pharmaceuticals firm with a market capitalization of around $175.2 billion, and Swiss Novartis AG with $125.7 billion.

More crucially, Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein analyst Tony Cox says Bayer's share price is about 25 percent below the value it would fetch if its four divisions—healthcare, polymers, chemicals and agriculture—were listed separately.

This makes Bayer an all-too-obvious takeover candidate. Also, the soaring costs of research and development in drugs mean it may find it difficult to keep pace with bigger rivals and secure strong revenue growth.

Insiders say the board is painfully aware of the company's precarious position, but is as yet unwilling to make any bolder moves.

Pride and skepticism about the Anglo-Saxon focus on shareholder value may be the key factors, but fear of a worker and political backlash against any break-up or separate stock market listing of the coveted pharma unit play a big role too, insiders say.

"I would mobilize every man employed by Bayer to prevent that," said Erhard Gipperich, head of the powerful works council which fears any such moves would lead to job cuts and a takeover by a foreign firm.

"I think Kaiser-Wilhelm-Allee (a street near Bayer) would be black with people to make their protest known against such a decision."

Chemical poison pill

Analysts dismiss Bayer's argument for keeping its four divisions is because they benefit from numerous synergies.

But they agree that the chemicals businesses serve as a poison pill for any predator lured by the drug unit because it would be difficult to unload them in a declining market.

Tepid growth forecasts for the chemical business were punctuated by recent unimpressive quarterly earnings by US chemical giants such as DuPont Co. and Dow Chemical Co.

Investors are skeptical that Bayer's longtime chief executive Manfred Schneider will listen to what investment bankers are liable to advise—a separation of higher margin healthcare to unlock the pharmaceutical value in the group.

Many say Bayer's structure is unlikely to change before Schneider's retirement around a year from now. He is set to face questions on strategic direction at the group's 2000 results news conference on March 15.

In a sign that investors should not expect fireworks, Bayer's Healthcare chief Frank Morich told Reuters in December that the tapping of CSFB and Deutsche was aimed to help it publicize its biotech-rich drug pipeline before its mid-2001 US listing.

The respiratory antibiotic Avelox and the cholesterol drug Baycol are current blockbusters but many analysts say the pipeline looks relatively thin until biotech products come on stream around mid-decade.

CEO change may be false dawn

Insiders say the attitudes of Schneider's likely successor among his current management colleagues, who themselves grew up in the company, vary from sticking to the current strategy and making a bolder move.

But some are skeptical that change at the helm would trigger a shift in strategy in the absence of an imminent takeover threat. They say a hostile bid for the company would be a monumental task for any predator in the face of labor opposition and the chemicals disincentive.

"It's very difficult to split the company if management doesn't want it and the employees don't want it," said Christian Faitz, analyst at BNP Paribas in Frankfurt.

"A predator would lose a lot of value in trying to change the structure of the company and it would take years and years and years."

That could leave Bayer in limbo just as competitors are transforming themselves to the delight of investors.

Bayer's local arch rival BASF AG announced last December it was selling it pharmaceuticals unit to the US healthcare firm Abbott Laboratories Inc. to focus on chemicals and oil and gas. A day earlier, Dupont made a similar decision to separate out its drugs division.

Novartis, Anglo-Swedish AstraZeneca Plc. and US-based Pharmacia Corp. all spun off their agrochemicals operations late last year, abandoning the "life-science" model of medicines and chemicals.

Some insiders hope the company can still avoid marginalization and find a solution that would please investors without taking Bayer's logo off the roof.

One idea is for Bayer to go for a cross-border deal equipped with a face-saving package, including keeping the headquarters of any combined entity and the Bayer logo safe in Leverkusen.

"Bayer needs a creative solution. I'm positive one could be found if they really tried," said one industry insider. *Reuters*

Flair makes up for make-up artist's lack of business sense

(From page C12)

After 20 years in the business, many are surprised that he has only two franchises—one in Makati at the Makati Cinema Square and the other inside BF Homes Parañaque.

He says he does not want to expand because he does not want to step on the toes of smaller parlors that are striving to build a business.

He says he has received a lot of inquiries, especially outside Metro Manila, but he feels uncomfortable about the competition he will pose to others. Ironically, the franchise holder of the Makati branch is the same owner of a competitor's franchise inside BF which is just a block away from the Fanny Serrano branch.

Serrano says the only expansion he is considering is a franchise at the Fiesta Mall, in Lipa, Batangas.

Serrano says he is happy with his one branch, currently located along Connecticut Avenue in Greenhills which he expects to soon move to Quezon City.

He says he has not invested in his own building because he is not yet able to raise the necessary funds. Every time he sets aside a little money, something happens, he says.

Serrano needs over P500,000 each month to cover the cost of running his business and maintaining a big household. He has 60 people in his shop including the dressmakers for his haute couture.

He also supports about two dozen family members. He only stops taking care of his family when they get married. He then puts his foot down and tells them that they are on their own. He is willing to give extras but not provide the basics.

Serrano's family is just lucky that Serrano gets enough from his salon business and then the business of haute couture where Fanny expanded to in 1996 with Lorna Tolentino as his first model.

The salon business, however, still accounts for the bulk of his business, contributing 70 percent of the revenues while the dress shop provides the rest. The money flows to FMF Inc., a corporation he put up upon Cuneta's suggestion. The initials are from his real name, Felix Mariano Fausto. (Serrano was nicknamed "Fanny" because of his sense of humor.)

While Serrano admits he may not really be maximizing his business potentials, he feels there must be a reason for this.

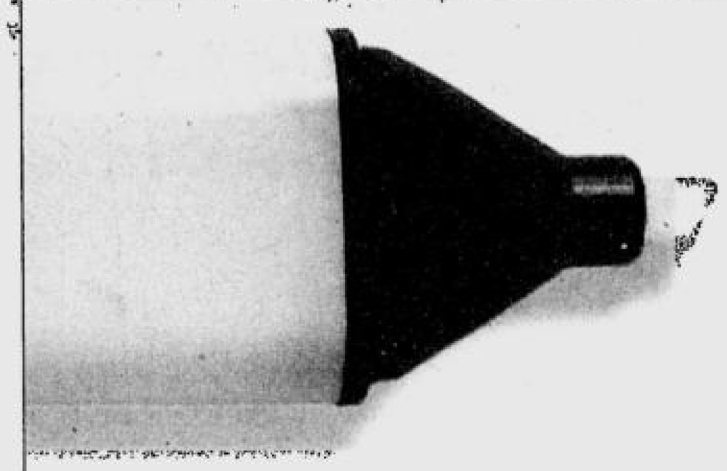
Do not stop giving

He talks about a time when he looked at his passbook and was amazed at how much money he would have had if only he did not withdraw so much money.

"So I closed it—no more withdrawals. You know what? Money stopped coming. I tried doing that several times and the same thing happens. Now I realize I am just a vessel and I know now why I know so many things and I am successful in all," he says.

Serrano has spread his wings through the years to include acting, doing styling for pictorials and even painting but the salon business is still the closest to his heart. But he enjoys being an actor.

"I am happy with it because I get to forget my role as a make-up artist and the problems I have with the business. I just unwind during tapings. It's like there is a new character within me. At the same time I get paid for it," he says.


Be noticed.

Stand out among even the fiercest competition with E-YellowPages.ph. EYP is the country's most comprehensive online business directory, with over 50,000 listings to date. It was created through the combined expertise of PLDT and Directories Philippines Corporation.

With EYP, you get accessed by customers the world over. What's more, you get exposed to your market round-the-clock. That's maximum business potential–all for free!

Be part of it now! Call 838-6110 or visit www.eyp.ph

EYP E-YellowPages.ph
PLDT convergence @ home
DPC Directories Philippines Corporation The Yellow Pages®

BUSINESS *Monday*

Flair makes up for make-up artist's lack of business sense

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE TOPIC for the interview was supposed to be personal finance—how a successful make-up artist/hairdresser/ fashion designer and actor manages his earnings.

But Fanny Serrano says he is the wrong person for the topic.

"I'm a come-what-may person. I have no business sense, I don't like figures in my mind," he says.

Further prodding however reveals that in his own way he has devised business philosophies which many hard-nosed businessmen might label as nonviable but which may be found refreshing by those who look for a deeper meaning.

Like many of his contemporaries and artists, Serrano started as a sweeper in a local parlor. He learned some tricks of the trade along the way and honed his own talents until he was finally given a break.

He says he owes part of his success to character actress Celia Rodriguez who was the first actress to recognize Serrano's talent as a make-up artist.

A friend introduced Serrano to Rodriguez in the late '60s when she was about to launch her comeback in the industry. Serrano made her up for her official comeback photos and it was a hit.

Rodriguez's comeback was a success and Serrano was soon sought out by other artists. He eventually started doing the faces of Amalia Fuentes, Vilma Santos and Lorna Tolentino.

Despite his growing fame in the industry, he was enticed to look for greener pastures in the US in the late 1970s. Alex Muhlach, father of former child actor Niño and brother of Fuentes, however, convinced him to stay put and open up a shop at the newly opened El Niño Apartelle in Cubao.

Muhlach even lent him the start-up capital of P85,000 fir the shop. Since then it became a hotbed for people who wanted to be with the make-up artist of the *artistas*. It was when Serrano became identified with the megastar Sharon Cuneta that his career truly soared.

Cuneta and Serrano have been making beautiful make-up together for over a decade and through the years Cuneta considered Serrano as much more than someone who pretties up her face and does her clothes. He has become a valuable friend.

Asked how he was able to meet and maintain the standards of Cuneta and other major stars, Serrano's answer is simple. Don't impress, just work honestly.

This statement now serves as his basis for maintaining his A-list of customers.

"I am honest to myself in doing her make-up and her clothes. I don't exert too much effort to impress her. I just show her this is what I can do. Sometimes I will surprise my clients and give them more than they expect," Serrano says.

FLAIR/ C11

MAKE-UP artist cum hairdresser cum actor cum stylist Fanny Serrano says when he stops giving, money coming in stops too.

Equitable PCI BANK

Now Open

Our Newest Branch in Your Home & Office

Equitable PCI BANK

FASTPhone

84-911
for Greater Metro Manila

1-800-188-84911
toll free, outside Greater Metro Manila

Keep in touch with your funds. Enroll now!

www.equitablepcib.com

PLUS BancNet MegaLink

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Deposits insured up to P100,000.00

Motorola cuts 7,000 more cell phone jobs

CHICAGO—Motorola Inc. is again slashing its workforce, eliminating 7,000 positions in its cellular phone division in an effort to reduce inventory that is building because of a slowing economy.

With Tuesday's cuts, Motorola has reduced its workforce by more than 10 percent, getting rid of 18,000 jobs since December.

Analysts, while calling the actions necessary, said Motorola must still rid itself of an old bugaboo—an inability to connect well with consumers on the lower-cost phones they prefer. Its failure to do so last year while the cell phone market and economy were still booming started its profit woes and caused it to slip further behind Finland's Nokia.

"This is a step in the right direction," said Kenneth Leon of ABN Amro in New York. "But the market's direction and execution of their product portfolio are probably just as important as a reduction in their head count."

Motorola gave no breakdown of the latest announced cuts but said they will affect manufacturing, engineering and administrative jobs throughout its worldwide cell phone operations. The bulk are to take place by July.

Once they take effect, 12,000 workers in its once high-flying personal communications division will have been idled by the series of cuts. In a related move, Motorola announced Feb. 23 it was eliminating 4,000 jobs from its semiconductor business, which supplies computer chips for its phones.

The Schaumburg, Illinois-based tech giant currently employs about 140,000 and has cell phone plants or offices in Illinois, Florida, Mexico, Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

Motorola stock was down 48 cents to $14.72 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

"It's a classic case of what's bad for Main Street is good for Wall Street," said Todd Bernier, an analyst for Chicago-based Morningstar.

"I sympathize with 7,000 people who are out of jobs, but clearly this is something Motorola has had to do for quite some time now. In the fourth quarter they earned only a 2-percent profit on their phones, which is a tenth of what Nokia made."

Motorola launched its latest restructuring late last year, barely two years after cutting 20,000 jobs and taking a $1-billion loss in 1998, the year Nokia overtook it. Its market share was only 13 percent in the fourth quarter of 2000 compared with 34 percent for Nokia, according to the Gartner Dataquest research firm.

After investing in expensive phones that never caught on, Motorola began paying a price for having too many phone models, an overly complex manufacturing platform and much higher costs than its competitors. It is working to trim all three. *AP*

Starbucks to offer stock options for Japanese employees

SEATTLE—Starbucks Coffee Japan will give stock options to workers, a move that Starbucks chair Howard Schultz says neither confirms nor refutes widespread speculation that the successful Japanese unit will go public.

"The decision to provide equity in the form of stock options is based on the importance of sharing the success that we've enjoyed in Japan with our people, and when or if we go public this stock option plan will ensure that (they) participate in that success," Schultz said in an interview here Thursday, hours after returning from an around-the-world trip.

Schultz would not say whether the company was planning an initial public offering for the Japanese unit, but he repeatedly stressed that "we are enjoying great success in Japan at a time when the economy has faced serious challenges."

The private stock offering essentially allows employees to share in the company's profits. If the company were to go public, employees would likely benefit even more.

Starbucks introduced a similar plan to US workers before going public.

Schultz informed workers of the stock-option plan amid growing worries about the Japanese economy. But he dismissed concerns that this would impact Starbucks' aggressive growth plans.

"This is my 20th year with Starbucks and during that time we've managed to build our business through down cycles in the economy," he said.

Starbucks moved into Japan in 1996, when another economic downturn was hitting the Asian economy.

Now, Schultz said, Starbucks Japan, which Seattle-based Starbucks Coffee Co. jointly owns with Japanese retailer Sazaby, is the coffee company's best performing market. The company does not release revenue by region.

Starbucks has defied cultural norms in Japan to become an unexpected hit, and current plans call for opening more than two stores a week. The company plans to have 500 stores in Japan by 2004. *AP*

The Brist Sh Shoe

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor ◘ LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
FAMILY FUN WEEKENDS
STORYTELLING & ART WORKSHOPS
Treat the entire family to an entertaining afternoon of distinctly Pinoy tales and a host of delightful art activities.
Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25
Sundays, 3PM
Food Court
Robinsons Place Imus
ROBINSONS Place IMUS
visit us at www.robinsonsland.com

Pacita Abad comes full circle with her 'trapunto'

BY GINO DORMIENDO

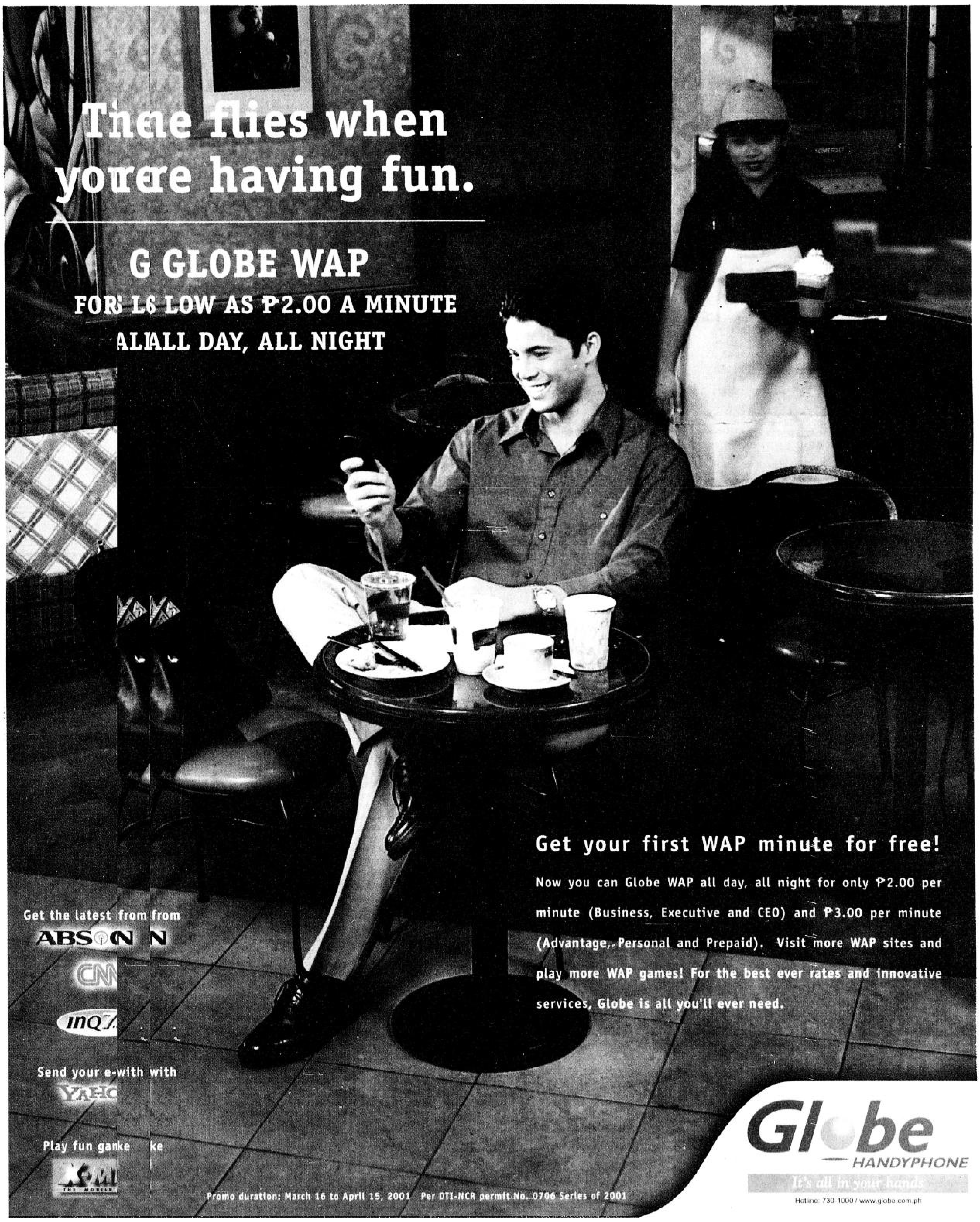
ABAD before her "Bandunġry try

HER name conjures the art of the *trapunto*, the artistic technique of joining together and quilting pieces of plain or painted cloth with an embossed design produced by outlining the pattern with stitches to create padded elements. While enhancing the existing designs with beads, buttons, mirrors, tin jewelry, dyed yarn and other rickrack, she sews, stitches and applies paint directly into her materials, creating wall hangings of wildly abundant color and remarkable vivacity.

The artist is Pacita Abad, a native of Batanes who has journeyed to places far and near, in a continuing "Grand Tour" that has enabled her to experiment with and immolate on all imaginable materials that she can lay her hands on. It will be recalled that, in the course of her travels that have taken her to some of the remotest places on earth, Abad has continually sought inspiration from the people's traditional culture, their folk arts and crafts, and astutely incorporating their age-old visual idioms into her own artistic imagination.

Thus, Abad's *trapunto* art reflects time, place and memory of those never-ending travels (where

PACITA/ p.D2



Time flies when you're having fun.
GLOBE WAP
FOR AS LOW AS ₱2.00 A MINUTE
ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT

Get your first WAP minute for free!

Now you can Globe WAP all day, all night for only ₱2.00 per minute (Business, Executive and CEO) and ₱3.00 per minute (Advantage, Personal and Prepaid). Visit more WAP sites and play more WAP games! For the best ever rates and innovative services, Globe is all you'll ever need.

Get the latest from from
ABS-CBN
CNN
inq7
Send your e-with with
YAHOO
Play fun ganke ke
X-MI THE MOBILE

Promo duration: March 16 to April 15, 2001 Per DTI-NCR permit No. 0706 Series of 2001

Globe HANDYPHONE
It's all in your hands
Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph

The Art-Deco splendor of FEU

(From page D5)

campus as an urban oasis. He personally planted a collection of hardwood tree specimens in the campus. A few have survived the extensive World War II damage to the campus and now cast their shade on the campus together with the other greenery that surrounds the buildings, which were designed in the Art Deco style in the early 1940s by National Artist for Architecture Pablo Antonio.

Dr. Lourdes Reyes Montinola, the chair of FEU, expands on the founder's vision. She believes that orderly surroundings not only encourage learning but also prepare students to be responsive in improving the quality of urban life. The commitment led the university to organize outreach programs focused on improving governance and maintenance of urban centers.

To free itself from an oppressive environment that stifled the quality of academic life, FEU first removed the warren of ad-hoc additions inserted over the years in random campus locations. Then the buildings were restored to the original Pablo Antonio design. Finally, the administration reassigned student space requirements to fit into the original partitioning of the structures. Then the administration went on the impossible task of keeping everything spotlessly clean. One look at the campus today shows the success of the campaign.

Centerpiece

The centerpiece of the Art Deco campus is Nicanor Reyes Hall built in 1939 facing Quezon Boulevard, the first of the Antonio buildings on campus. Built during the adolescent years of the Philippine Commonwealth when the country was flexing its muscles and taking its part in the community of nations, the building set the image for the university: a thoroughly modern building that conveyed the future-oriented vision of FEU.

The Administration Building, built in 1949 by Antonio, was the first new building constructed after the war. Its geometric Art Deco façade is outstanding. To the general public of the era, however, it was best known as the location of the FEU auditorium, the first fully air-conditioned theater in Manila that seated an audience of 1,000. Until the advent of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the FEU Theater was the venue for all of the major national and foreign cultural performances in Manila.

AT THE SCIENCE Building is an Art Deco feast whose curved forms scoop an entrance out of the wall with curved forms that are defined by glass blocks and enclosed by a door fitted with geometric iron grillework.

THE NICANOR Reyes Hall facing Quezon Boulevard, an Art Deco style building constructed in 1939, demonstrates the hallmarks of the style: A taut façade broken by geometric forms, inverted pyramids for capitals above the piers that hold the structure above the covered sidewall.

What is there to look for in the FEU campus? Plenty—the campus is a visual feast, one of the Art Deco jewels of Manila and probably the best preserved of them all.

Look for deco architectural details: taut concrete plastering on wall surfaces that break out into sleek circles and waves; and geometric detailing in façades (the Quezon Boulevard façade of the Nicanor Reyes Hall is exceptional) and interiors (entrance doorways, canopies, stair railings, geometric iron grillwork are outstanding).

Look at the tropical-architecture features of all the buildings. Wide concrete overhangs protect windows from rain and shade the interiors from sun. The openness of interior planning in the buildings circulates air to cool the interiors.

Look at the exterior stairway at the rear of the Nicanor Reyes Hall. A swirl of free-flowing concrete flows across the top of the stairway, whose railing of rigid concrete rectangles complete the geometric counterpoint as the steps descend to the ground.

Look at the Chapel, designed by architect Felipe Mendoza and completed in 1957. Its altar is raised so that the congregation can spill out into the open quadrangle and still participate in the services.

Artwork

Look for major artwork on campus by Manansala, Botong Francisco, Saulog and the Italian sculptor Monti.

Look for walkways covered with trellises of flowering bougainvillea that shade student seating areas and quiet corners for studying.

Look at the sensitively designed Gymnasium, completed in 1999 by architect Pablo Antonio Jr. It is a new building that blends almost seamlessly with the heritage architecture.

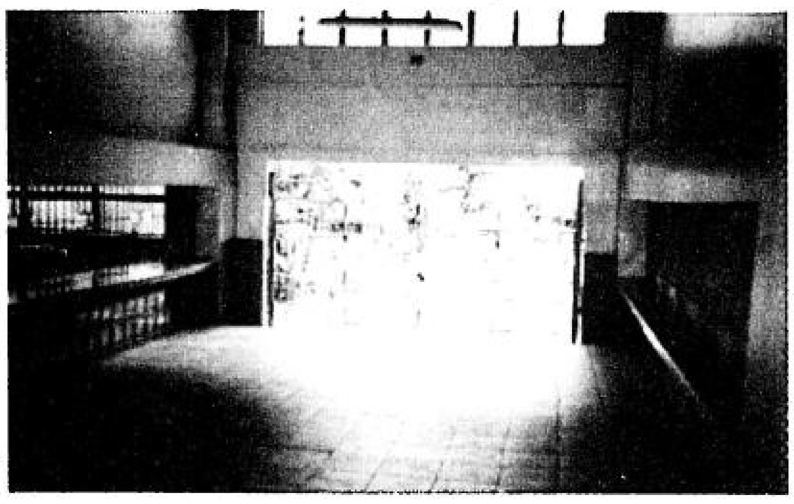
Look at the mint condition of the heritage buildings and see how the university's modern facilities coexist with 50-year-old structures, proving that heritage buildings serve some practical use in our present lives after all.

Look at the spotless campus, a total contrast from its surrounding neighborhood of decaying buildings, boarded-up doors, broken windows, peeling paint, walls with graffiti and faded posters, dirty sidewalks, uncollected garbage and clouds of dust flying all over.

FEU is the oasis that Reyes envisioned it to be.

Learning of the architectural and heritage significance of their campus came as an epiphany to the students who joined the tour. Now they know that the FEU campus sets examples for Manila. It proves that the determination of the university administration to restore the heritage buildings and clean up the campus has succeeded in more than just providing ideal surroundings for learning. It has established a strong image for the university, one of the few places in Manila that shines with a definite pride of place.

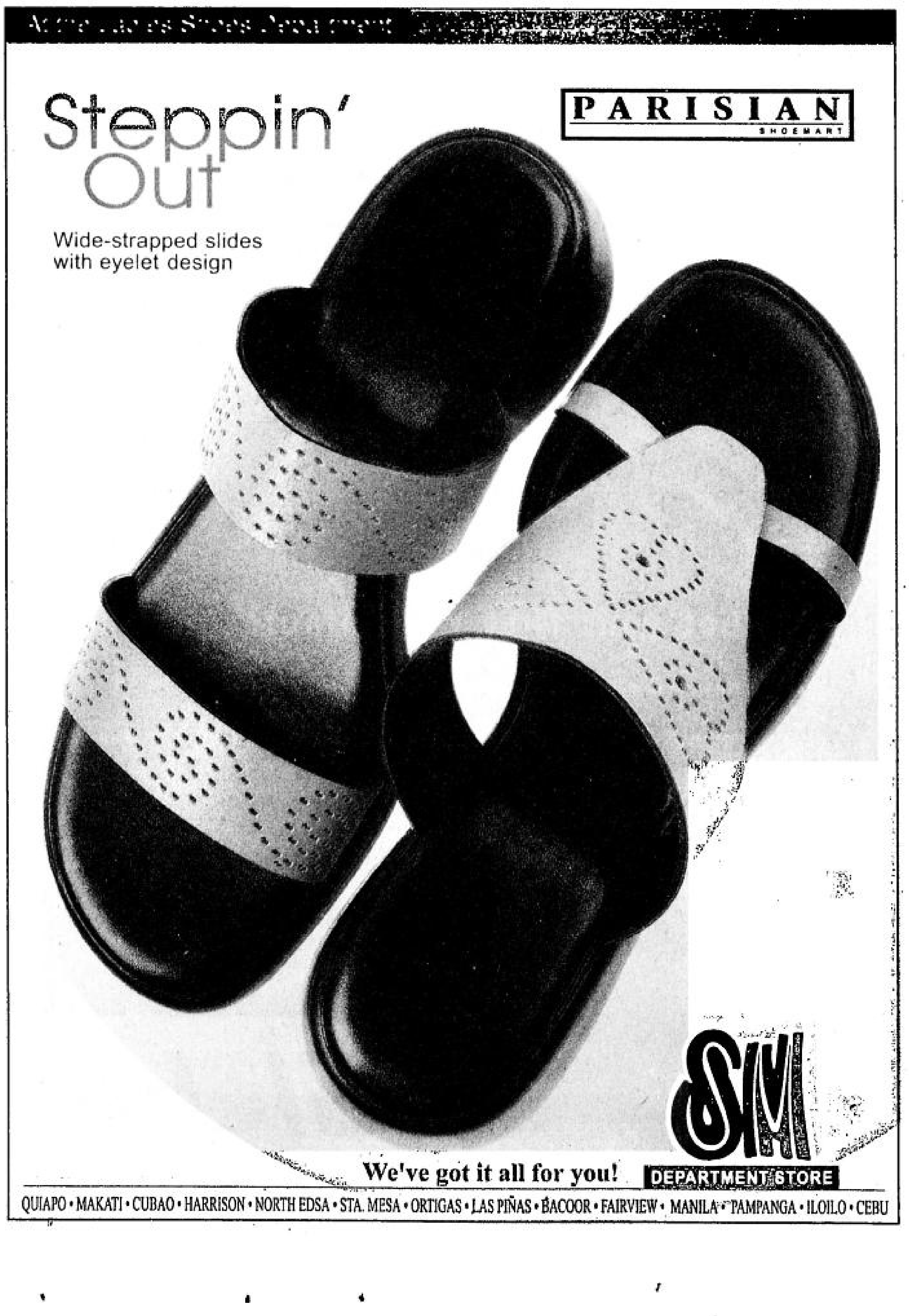
FLOOR-TO-CEILING iron grills protect the windows that line the side of the covered sidewalk of Nicanor Reyes Hall along Quezon Boulevard.


ROOMS with large internal windows that open to wide internal corridors leading to the exterior courtyard ensures circulation of tropical air.

Antonio deserves special mention. One of the leading lights of Philippine architecture, his career began as a draftsman in the Bureau of Public Works. From there, he transferred to the Mapúa, Arevalo and Siochi Construction Co. Don Ramon Arevalo granted him a scholarship to study in England in 1927. Upon his return five years later, Antonio assumed the position of chief architect in Arevalo's Santa Clara Construction Co. where he remained until he established his own firm in 1935. Aside from the FEU campus, a few of his many works still visible are the Villarreal Residence (now Orchid Garden Suites on Vito Cruz Street), the Ideal, Lyric and Galaxy theaters, the Manila Polo Club and the rustic compound of low-slung houses that Antonio built for his family in Pasay. He was posthumously conferred the National Artist for Architecture in 1974.

The monthly walking tours of the Heritage Conservation Society are open to the public. Bona fide members have priority in bookings. Nonmembers are waitlisted, so reservations are essential. Call the Heritage Conservation Society at 521-2239 and 522-2497, or e-mail hcs@home-harbor.com.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph


At the Ladies Shoes Department
Steppin' Out
Wide-strapped slides with eyelet design
PARISIAN
SHOEMART
SM
We've got it all for you! DEPARTMENT STORE
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

Pacita Abad comes full circle with her 'trapunto'

(From page D1)

she has lived and mingled with the local folk), proffering an expansive view of Oriental deities mingling with African tribal chieftains, primitive gods and goddesses cohabiting with a people proudly enamored with the art of their everyday life.

In her 39th exhibit, Abad asserts her avowed role as the progenitor of *trapunto* art, which she has rightfully elevated into a tapestry of mixed media, a truly riveting viewing experience for gallerygoers with its kaleidoscope of colors, forms and textures. Dubbed "The Sky is the Limit," the simultaneous shows at the Art Center and Finale, SM Megamall (until March 26) prove that her dynamism and vivacity have not dissipated with time. Working in large-scale wall pieces as well as in relatively smallish 15x15 cm canvases, the artist fully unleashes her visual and emotional energy.

The pieces draw heavily from the trips she has made to various parts of the Middle East, around India and countries in Southeast Asia. On these trips, she became enamored with the people's deep affinity with their everyday art, particularly in Rajasthan where women, as she narrates in her foreword to the catalog, are themselves virtual walking art pieces, draped in colorful, flowing fabrics, beads, bark, mirrors, buttons, dyed yarn and multicolored hair ornaments.

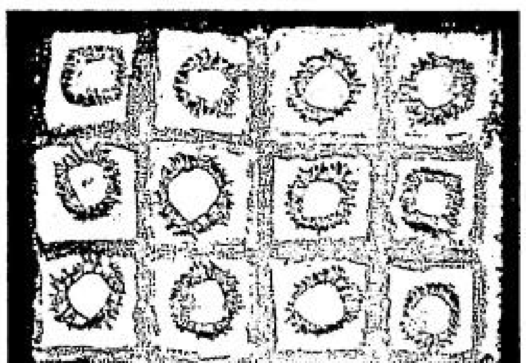
Galaxy of colors

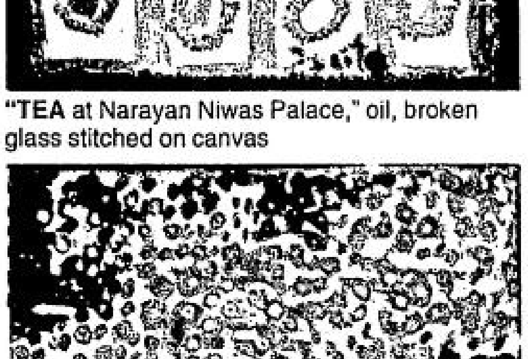
All these appurtenances of daily wear—emblems of folk art and culture—are ingeniously incorporated in Abad's works. The large works, in particular, such as the signature "The Sky is the Limit," make use of oil painted and printed on a variety of cloth, predominantly of *batik* design, with plastic buttons stitched on canvas, creating a feeling of order in what appears to be a maze of colors and textures.

In "Bumbu Bumbu," glass beads are stitched on canvas painted with oil, yielding an infinitesimal variety of concentric, multicolored shapes. In "Stories of Love," with its painted and printed cloth, she has stitched gold thread on canvas, an elegant visual field of dotted lines and circles that, on their own, evoke pleasant tales all their own.

Despite Abad's sweeping galaxy of colors, a feeling of intimacy is conveyed and discernible in the manner by which the artist sews or stitches the cloth and applies paint on her work, which, in the words of Hong Kong writer and publisher Ian Findlay, creates the impression that she were making art for the viewer alone.

In Abad's smaller works—arranged in a serial format on the squeaky-clean walls of the Art Center and the Finale—we get a closer glimpse of the kind of abstraction at work in these pieces. Here, perhaps unlike the feeling generated by the large works, we get a more contemplative, personal view of her palette, with her vigorous daubs of oil unsparingly applied on canvas, which becomes all the more charming when viewed up close and, therefore, more intimate.


"TEA at Narayan Niwas Palace," oil, broken glass stitched on canvas


"WHILE Pushkar Slept," oil, broken glass stitched on canvas

Abad, who was born in Basco, Batanes, learned the skills of sewing and making clothes early in life. She later went to the University of the Philippines where she finished her degree in fine arts. She took up her master's degree from the University of San Francisco, California. She also studied painting at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C., and the Art Students League in New York City.

The artist has been featured in numerous shows abroad, such as the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., Hong Kong Arts Center, the Bhirasri Institute of Modern Art in Bangkok, Altos de Chavan in the Dominican Republic, the Art Museum of Western Virginia, Roanoke, the National Center of Afro-American Artists in Boston and the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

In this annual homecoming show, Abad has proven with finality that though her aesthetic concerns have grown with age and correspondingly come full circle in time, she remains quintessentially a Filipino whose unique art practice addresses the peoples and nations of the world, united, as it were, in a global *trapunto* of art and life.

St. Joseph, model of selfless service, marks his feast day today

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

I FEEL very blessed today because my column has come out on the feast of St. Joseph, my patron saint. Today is my feast day. Please pray for me that I may continue to have the grace to go on writing this column, which has helped priests, churches, seminarians and devotees of Jesus, Mary, Joseph and all the saints. It has helped the less fortunate, too, because my readers have responded to their needs.

There are many religious groups out there that want to be heard, written about so they can help in the formation of people who want to go into deeper spirituality.

'Do not be afraid'

Fr. Roy Rosales, vice rector of the Manila Cathedral, said in his homily during a novena Mass at the Hospicio de San Jose that St. Joseph is with us, so we need not be afraid to go into the new millennium. We can always pray to St. Joseph to help us in our daily struggles, financial woes and health problems.

Fr. Virgilio Mendoza, parish priest of Our Lady of Fatima in Binakayan, Cavite, said that St. Joseph is the model for selfless and faithful service. This should be a message for us who are lectors, commentators, lay ministers and catechists who are working for the Lord. St. Joseph rendered silent service as he acted as father of Jesus and husband to Mary. His humility is an inspiration for us. Because of our pride, there are times when we want to give up serving the Lord through a religious organization, but St. Joseph inspires us to continue the work.

Sanctify work

Blessed Jose Maria Escriva urges us to sanctify work, and it will sanctify us and others. In his homily on March 19, 1963, he said: "Professional work is also an apostolate, an opportunity to give ourselves to others, to reveal Christ to them and lead them to God the Father—all of which is the overflow of charity which the Holy Spirit pours into our hearts."

Relic of St. Joseph

Those who want to venerate the relic of St. Joseph for healing can attend the Mass today at 6 p.m. at Hospicio de San Jose. The relic will be venerated after the Mass, which will be celebrated by Fr. Luis Ibasco, guest priest of Ermita Church. The relic comes from the cloak of St. Joseph.

By the way, I have a 30-day novena to St. Joseph. Those who want a free novena can write me. Please enclose a long self-addressed stamped envelope for easier mailing.

Different images of St. Joseph

Today is the last day to view the exhibit of at least 60 different images of St. Joseph at the conference hall of Hospicio de San Jose. Opening the exhibit on March 10 were *hermanos mayores* Amelia Ablaza and Joseph Christian Singson, who was accompanied by his mother, Mary Ann Santamaria Singson, *hermanas* Doña Amanda Madrigal, Amelita Tengco, Nena Aguinaldo, Eden Tiongco, Patria Jacinto, Grace Jose, Ging Ong, Letty Meim, Patria Jacinto, Nene Aguinaldo, Aureo Alonzo, Danny and Pining Reyes. Other *hermanos* who did not make it were Imelda Cojuangco, Jose Mari Chan, Jose Mari Hilario, Nelly Enriquez, Consuelo Abaya, Babot Oreta, Nedy Tantoco and Sonny Tanchanco.

'I need a miracle' tape

THE BETHESDA Springs of Hope Healing Ministry recently launched audio and video cassette tapes such as "I Need a Miracle," "Healing Through the Way of the Cross," "Healing Through the Eucharist," "The Healing Mass, Meaning and Value of the Mass" and "Blessed Sacrament Adoration."

To order, call Bethesda at 633-0153 or 634-3880. The address is 55 Scout Santiago corner Scout Rallos, QC.

50 rosaries for 50 days

THE FAMILY Rosary Crusade (FRC) has decided to hold "50 Rosaries for 50 Days" to celebrate its 50th year of ministry in the Philippines. From March 25 (Solemnity of the Annunciation) to May 13, anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima and, coincidentally, eve of our national elections, FRC will lead families, parishes and communities in praying the rosary daily. Each day's prayer will focus on a particular Christian virtue, the goal being a return to values that we hold dear: truth and faithfulness, love of God and our Church, peace and solidarity, honesty and integrity, charity and love for all.

Volunteers needed

A NONPROFIT organization engaged in uplifting the plight of children of the street and urban poor communities is seeking some 220 volunteers to participate in its summer workshop project that will benefit over 1,600 children from Welfareville, Mandaluyong and Barangays Sto. Tomas and San Nicolas in Pasig. Unang Hakbang Foundation, which maintains community-based centers in the two barangays and a drop-in center for street children at the St. Francis de Assisi Parish Church on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong, will hold "Talon, Takbo, Likha," a six-week program of activities for children ages 6-16 on April 16 to May 26.

Call Unang Hakbang at 723-9616; Troy Baydo at (0917) 399-8408, or Matet Santos at (0919) 554-3630.

ST. Joseph image owned by Imelda Cojuangco

Simple pleasures

DO you feel your heart breaking when you read or hear bad news? We cannot escape the reality of death, but we can pause to take our minds off the hurt, the pain and the stress. Listening to Bong play the piano at the lobby of the Harrison Plaza on a Sunday afternoon gives such pleasure that you just want to stand there and listen.

Bong gives life to the piano as he plays love songs. He gives it all as he sways his body to the music.

And then, you could stop by for coffee at the Juan Soy Café and Diner at the Royal Bay Terrace on UN Avenue corner Cortada Street. *Balikbayan* Willie Ragasa, who worked as a chef in Santa Monica, California, has put up a small cozy place with good food and good coffee. On one wall is a reproduction of the painting of Café Pastis by Shirley Murray—a pleasant creation to look at.

It was nice to see former Bb. Pilipinas beauty queen Simonette de los Reyes-Feraren cooking California Funnel Cake at the hole-in-the-wall cafeteria of Royal Palm Hotel on A. Mabini Street corner Padre Faura. Simonette brought the franchise here. The hotel owners immediately asked her to introduce it in their cafeteria.

If you are feeling down, read the book "Random Kindness" which will tell you that doing a simple act of kindness can change the world. Available at National Bookstore.

Alay Lakad para sa Ina ng Manaoag

THE COMMEMORATION of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag will be on May 2, the 75th anniversary.

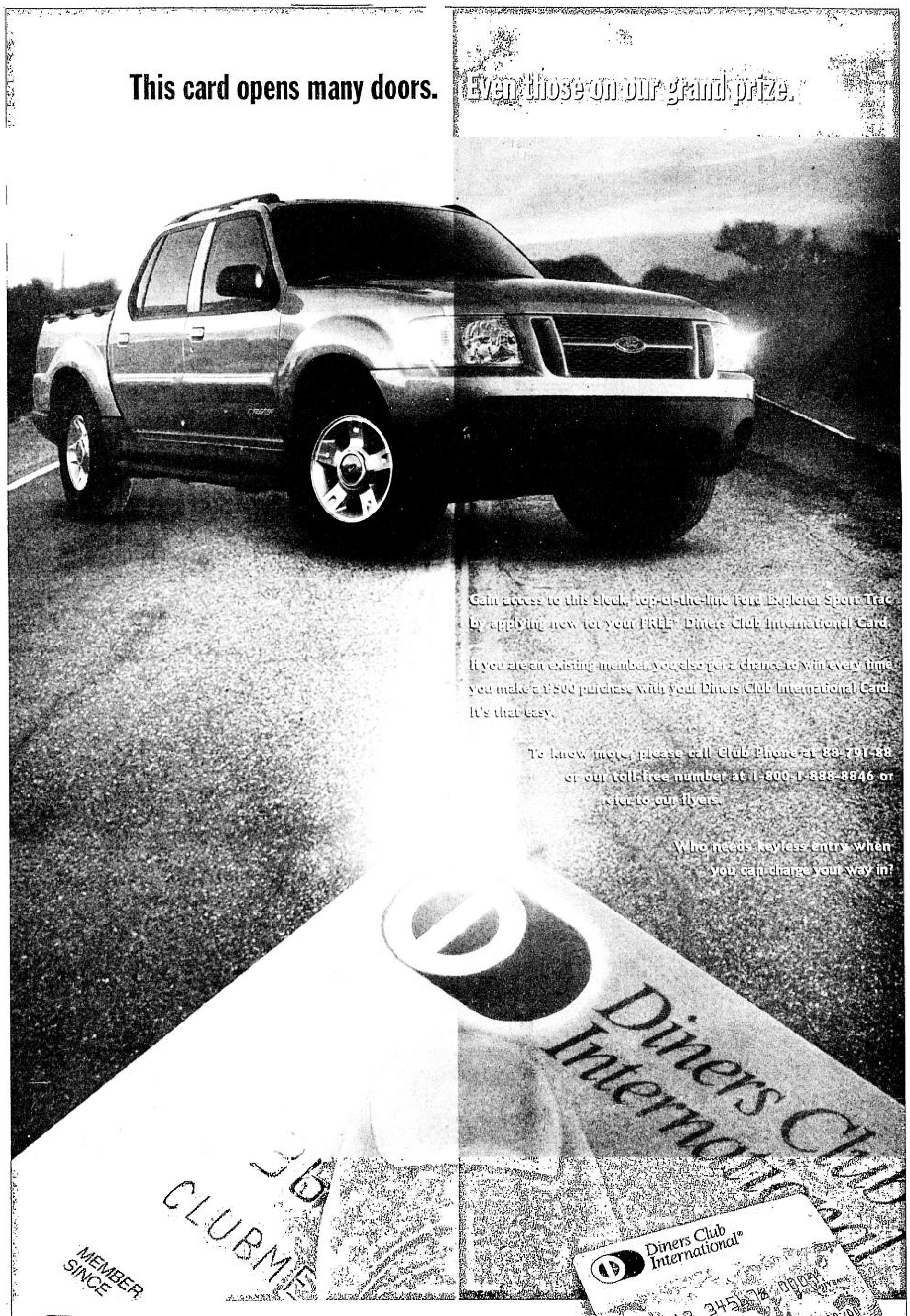
There'll be an Alay Lakad para sa Ina ng Manaoag on March 25 at 5:30 a.m. It will start at Sto. Domingo Church and end at Quezon City Memorial Circle with a solemn Mass at 7:30 a.m. It is a joint project of Our Lady's Diamond Jubilee executive committee and Pusong Makabayan Foundation.

The Pilgrim Image of Ina ng Manaoag will join in the Alay Lakad.

Call The Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan at (075) 529-0132, telefax (075) 529-0508, e-mail shrine@moz com.com or call Jovita Sy at 687-2549.

ST. JOSEPH EXHIBIT OPENING. Mary Ann Singson, Joseph Christian Singson, Doña Amanda Madrigal, Amelia Ablaza, Msgr. Josefino Ramirez, Aureo Alonzo, Amelita Tengco and Danny Reyes

This card opens many doors.



Even those on our grand prize.

Gain access to this sleek, top-of-the-line Ford Explorer Sport Trac by applying now for your FREE* Diners Club International Card.

If you are an existing member, you also get a chance to win every time you make a ₱500 purchase with your Diners Club International Card. It's that easy.

To know more, please call Club Phone at 88-791-88 or our toll-free number at 1-800-1-888-8846 or refer to our flyers.

Who needs keyless entry when you can charge your way in?

Diners Club International

* Your processing and annual fees are WAIVED for the first year. Your application must be received from February 1 to June 30, 2001 (and subsequently approved) to qualify for the raffle promotion.

Color of actual unit may vary from photo..

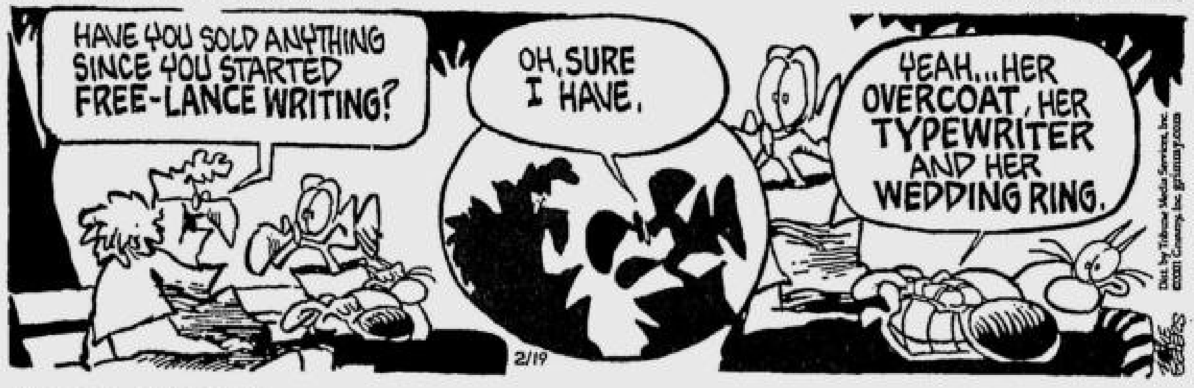
SECURITY DINERS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Security Bank

A Step Up.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0103, Series of 2001

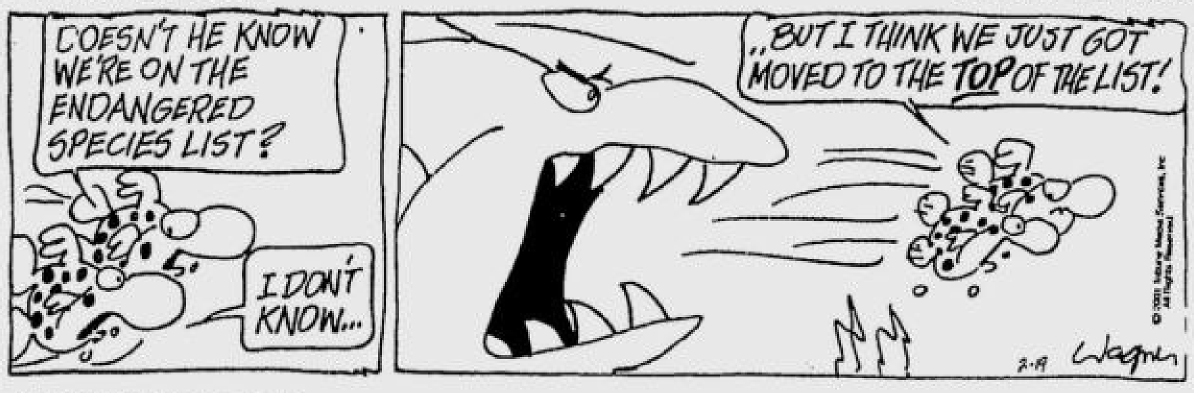
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HAVE YOU SOLD ANYTHING SINCE YOU STARTED FREE-LANCE WRITING?
OH, SURE I HAVE.
YEAH... HER OVERCOAT, HER TYPEWRITER AND HER WEDDING RING.
2/19

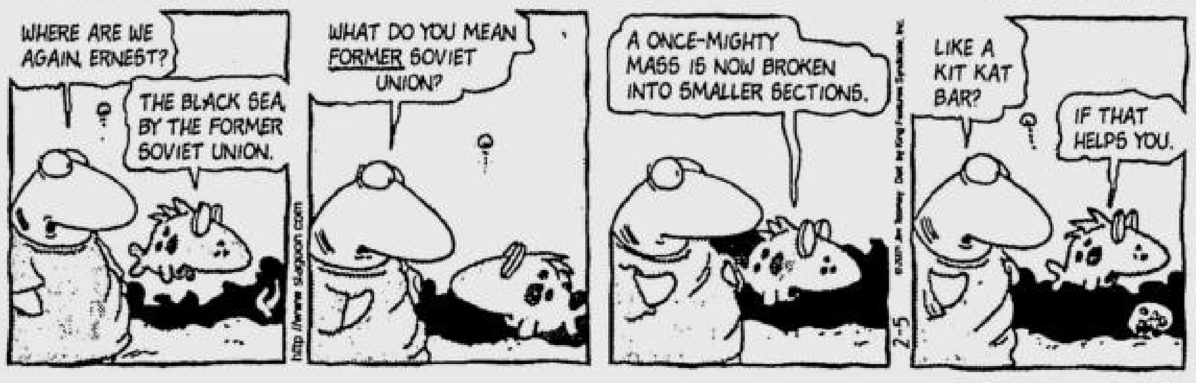
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


DOESN'T HE KNOW WE'RE ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST?
I DON'T KNOW...
..BUT I THINK WE JUST GOT MOVED TO THE TOP OF THE LIST!
2-19 Wagner

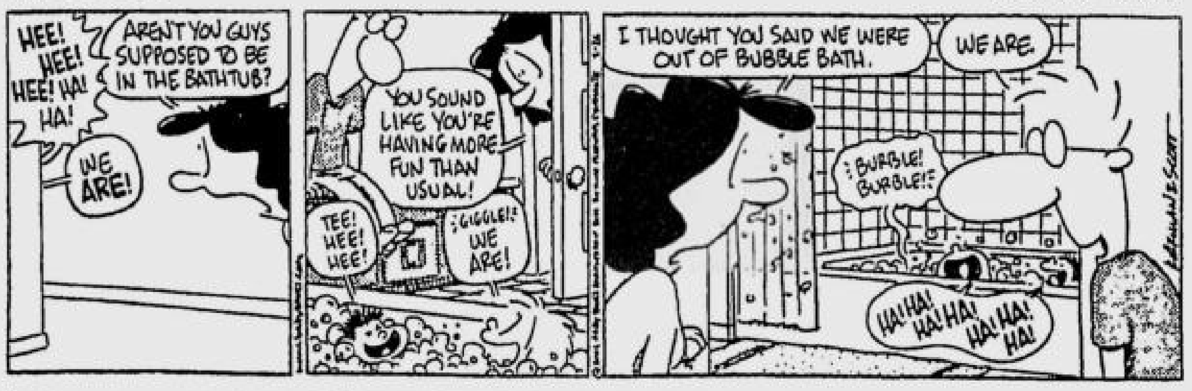
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE ARE WE AGAIN, ERNEST?
THE BLACK SEA, BY THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN FORMER SOVIET UNION?
A ONCE-MIGHTY MASS IS NOW BROKEN INTO SMALLER SECTIONS.
LIKE A KIT KAT BAR?
IF THAT HELPS YOU.
2-5

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEE! HEE! HEE! HA! HA!
AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE BATHTUB?
WE ARE!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE HAVING MORE FUN THAN USUAL!
TEE! HEE! HEE!
GIGGLE! WE ARE!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WERE OUT OF BUBBLE BATH.
WE ARE.
BURBLE! BURBLE!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bruce Willis, Glenn Close, Philip Roth, Ursula Andress

Happy Birthday: Let your imagination run wild this year and reach for the stars. If you allow yourself the luxury of following your dreams, you will enjoy the year ahead [illegible] well. This is not the time to be afraid of loss or not succeeding. Instead, you must be open to any opportunities [illegible] numbers [illegible], 12, 27, 31, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep an open mind and go with the flow. You can turn your ideas into cash if you're willing to work hard. People will be interested in supporting your efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have no difficulty borrowing money or possessions. Sudden changes in your financial picture and position in life are apt to happen if you have executed your intentions carefully.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): [illegible] money and [illegible] a head.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you without asking first. Try not to lose your cool, but make your point known. You may find the tables turned later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Go after your goals. Don't let anyone stand in the way of your success. Do your own research and don't leave anything to chance. Follow through with your plans and don't overlook any details.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to get your body moving. Join a club or buy a good workout tape. It's time to take control of your life and your appearance. Use your discipline to achieve the image you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stress will cause fatigue. You can achieve if you are willing to direct your attention toward your hobbies or self-improvement projects. Don't let those you live with back you into a corner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your relatives will be more helpful than you thought possible. Sit back and listen. The information you receive will be informative and eye-opening regarding your current situation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): More money can be yours if you are willing to go after a higher-paying job that requires more responsibilities. You'll need the extra cash if you overextended yourself last year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be angry about financial matters that concern joint accounts or outrageous contributions. If your mate can't control his or her spending habits, limit credit card privileges.

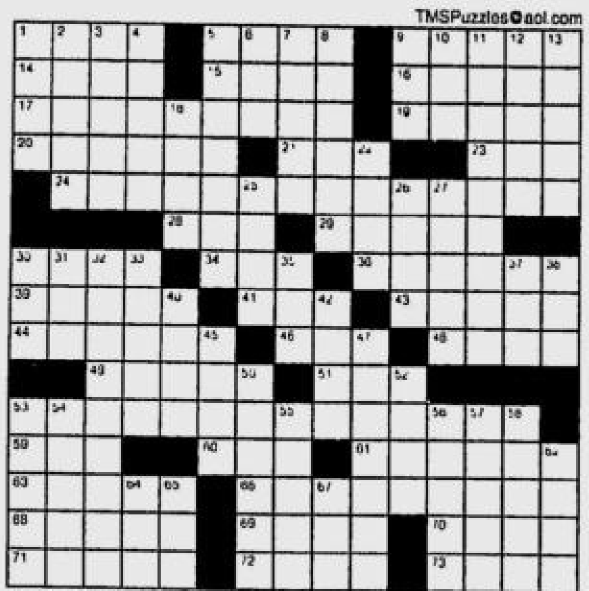
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Secret affairs will only cause complications in your life. Try not to become involved in other people's private doings. You can make sound financial investments if you act fast.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be an observer, not a disturber. Accept the inevitable and prepare to make the necessary adjustments. Partners won't be too eager to help you.

Birthday Baby: You are stable, steady and caring. You have a desire to try new things but not at the risk of a bad experience. You check everything out carefully before you proceed. You're somewhat reserved but also a driving force who can conquer whatever you face.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

2/2/01

ACROSS
1 Winglike structures
5 Capital of Qatar
9 Saunter
14 Vocalist Vikki
15 Whitney and Wallach
16 Sheik's women
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
19 Do detective work
20 Turbine part
21 Twosome
23 Formicary resident
24 Part 2 of quote
28 Eco-unit
29 U.A.E. rulers
30 Butterfingers' comment
34 Three in Italia
36 Curve-drawing device
39 Stage objects
41 Erie Canal mule
43 Fountain orders
44 Long scarves
46 Grave letters
48 Oahu goose
49 Long and lean
51 __ deco
53 Part 3 of quote
59 Important time
60 High card
61 Short sleep
63 Beatles album, "__ Road"
66 End of quote
68 Mediterranean island nation
69 Alice Springs hoppers
70 Dregs
71 Move stealthily
72 Allowance for waste
73 Formerly, formerly

DOWN
1 Play parts
2 Actress Christine
3 Vicinities
4 Muse of poetry
5 Crack a code
6 Corrida cry
7 Brahmanist
8 Shrewd
9 Expressions of satisfaction
10 Playing piece
11 Ship's flank
12 Convicted Helmsley
13 Unoccupied
18 Ice cream container
22 Units of resistance
25 Shell propellers
26 Useful hints
27 Acrylic fiber
30 Saturn's wife
31 Scrap of food
32 Furniture with pockets?
33 Kegler's challenge
35 Serving of corn
37 Fabray, casually
38 Wind dir.
40 Abel's other brother
42 Ananias, e.g.
45 Mets' milieu
47 Like concrete slabs
50 Usher
52 Russian ruler
53 Smiles widely
54 Of cities
55 Singing voice
56 Upright stone slab
57 "__ Sanctum"
58 Cloys
62 Alternative to ahem
64 Zeta-theta separator
65 Tibetan ox
67 "The Raven" poet

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

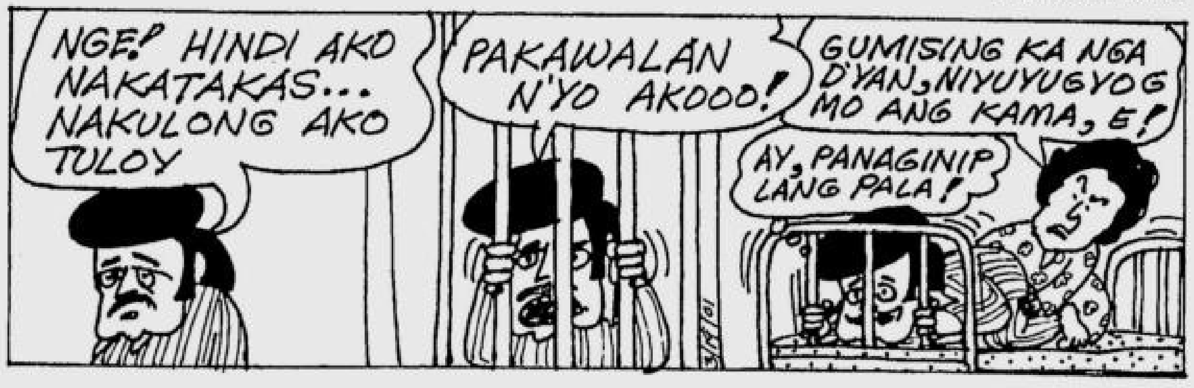
D	A	T	A	■	C	H	A	T	S	■	D	A	W	N
A	J	A	R	■	R	E	L	I	C	■	O	L	I	O
L	A	R	G	E	E	X	P	L	O	S	I	O	N	S
E	X	T	O	L	S	■	S	T	R	A	T	E	G	Y
■	■	■	S	I	T	S	■	S	E	W	■	■	■	■
P	O	S	Y	■	I	N	S	■	R	E	L	A	T	E
A	R	E	■	K	N	O	T	S	■	D	O	S	E	S
S	T	R	O	N	G	W	I	N	D	G	U	S	T	S
H	O	R	D	E	■	S	N	O	R	E	■	E	R	A
A	N	A	D	E	M	■	T	O	O	■	S	T	A	Y
■	■	■	■	P	U	B	■	T	U	B	E	■	■	■
A	P	P	E	A	S	E	R	■	G	O	A	L	I	E
G	R	A	N	D	S	L	A	M	H	O	M	E	R	S
A	E	R	O	■	E	L	I	O	T	■	E	G	O	S
R	Y	E	S	■	L	E	N	D	S	■	N	O	N	O

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

2/2/01

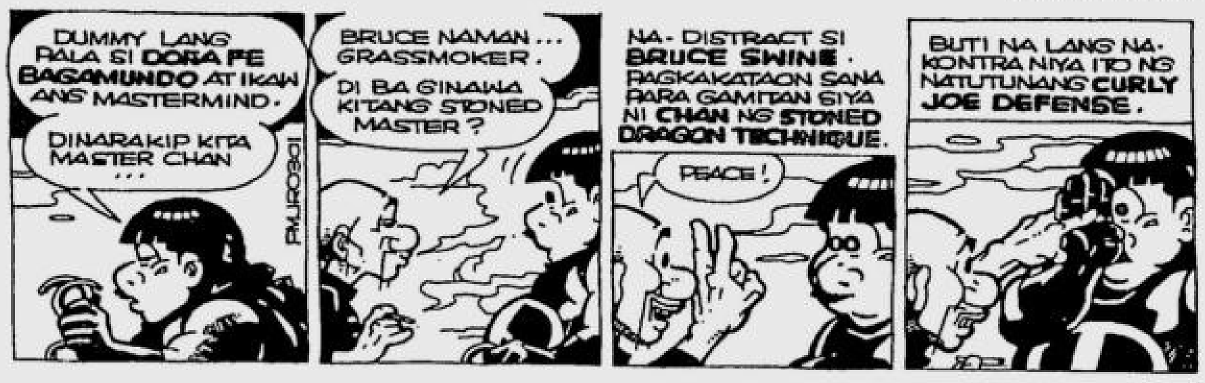
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


NGE! HINDI AKO NAKATAKAS... NAKULONG AKO TULOY
PAKAWALAN N'YO AKOOO!
GUMISING KA NGA D'YAN, NIYUYUGYOG MO ANG KAMA, E!
AY, PANAGINIP LANG PALA!

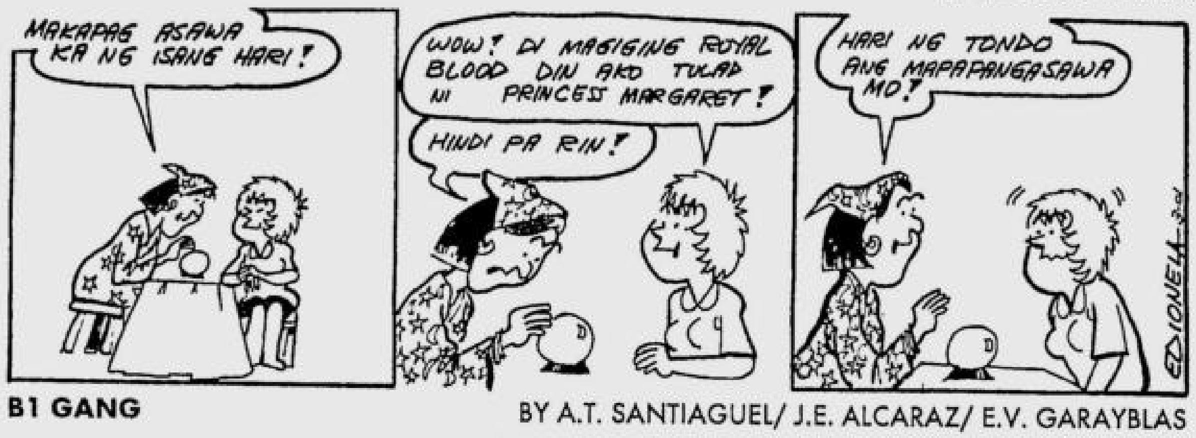
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DUMMY LANG PALA SI DORA FE BAGAMUNDO AT IKAW ANG MASTERMIND.
DINARAKIP KITA MASTER CHAN ...
PMJR0301
BRUCE NAMAN... GRASSMOKER.
DI BA GINAWA KITANG STONED MASTER?
NA-DISTRACT SI BRUCE SWINE. PAGKAKATAON SANA PARA GAMITAN SIYA NI CHAN NG STONED DRAGON TECHNIQUE.
PEACE!
BUTI NA LANG NAKONTRA NIYA ITO NG NATUTUNANG CURLY JOE DEFENSE.

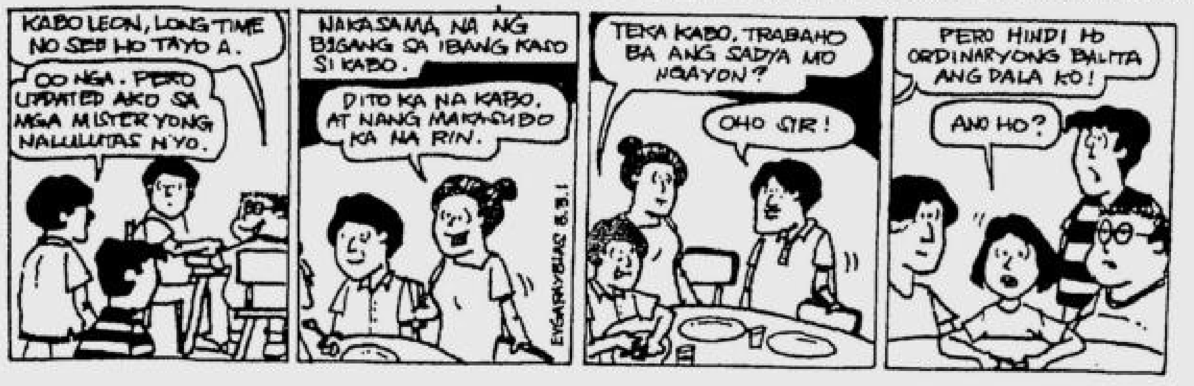
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


MAKAPAG ASAWA KA NG ISANG HARI!
WOW! DI MAGIGING ROYAL BLOOD DIN AKO TULAD NI PRINCESS MARGARET!
HINDI PA RIN!
HARI NG TONDO ANG MAPAPANGASAWA MO!
EDIONELA

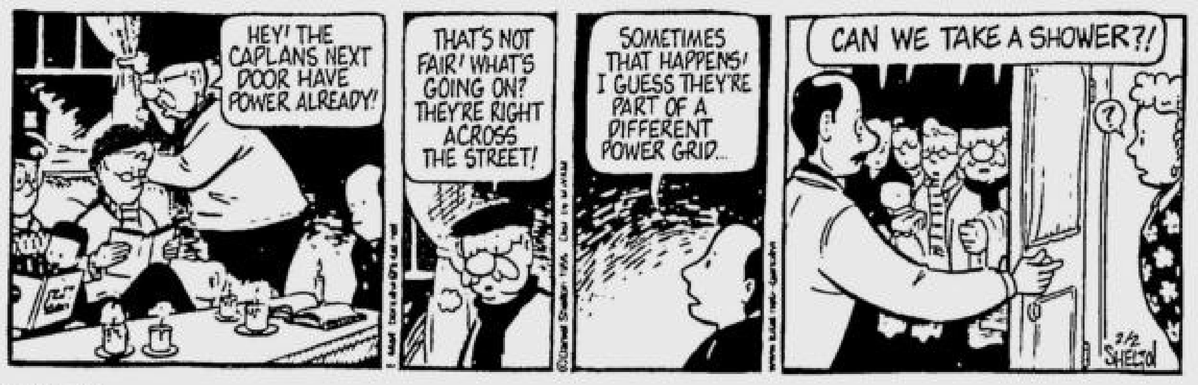
B1 GANG

BY A.T. SANTIAGUEL/ J.E. ALCARAZ/ E.V. GARAYBLAS


KABO LEON, LONG TIME NO SEE HO TAYO A.
OO NGA. PERO UPDATED AKO SA MGA MISTERYONG NALULUTAS N'YO.
NAKASAMA NA NG BIGANG SA IBANG KASO SI KABO.
DITO KA NA KABO. AT NANG MAKASUBO KA NA RIN.
TEKA KABO. TRABAHO BA ANG SADYA MO NGAYON?
OHO SIR!
PERO HINDI HO ORDINARYONG BALITA ANG DALA KO!
ANO HO?

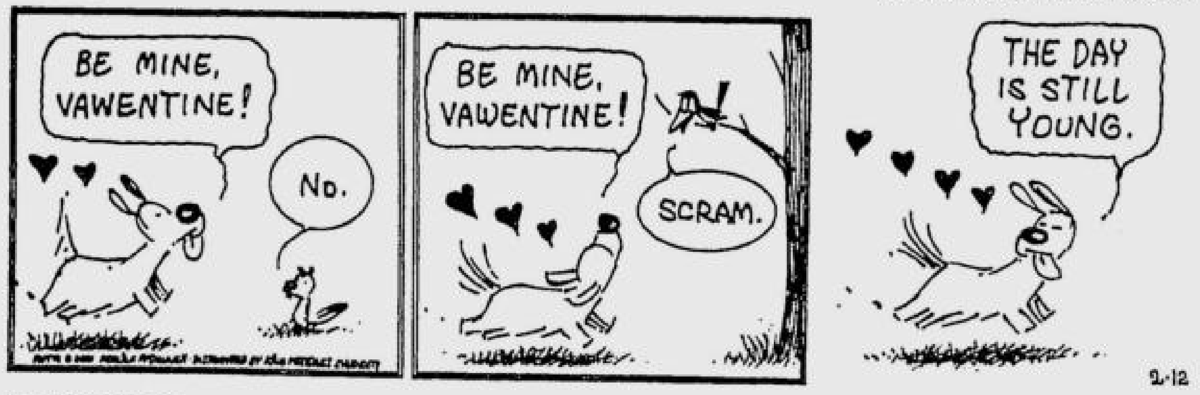
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY! THE CAPLANS NEXT DOOR HAVE POWER ALREADY!
THAT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT'S GOING ON? THEY'RE RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET!
SOMETIMES THAT HAPPENS! I GUESS THEY'RE PART OF A DIFFERENT POWER GRID...
CAN WE TAKE A SHOWER?!
?
SHELTON

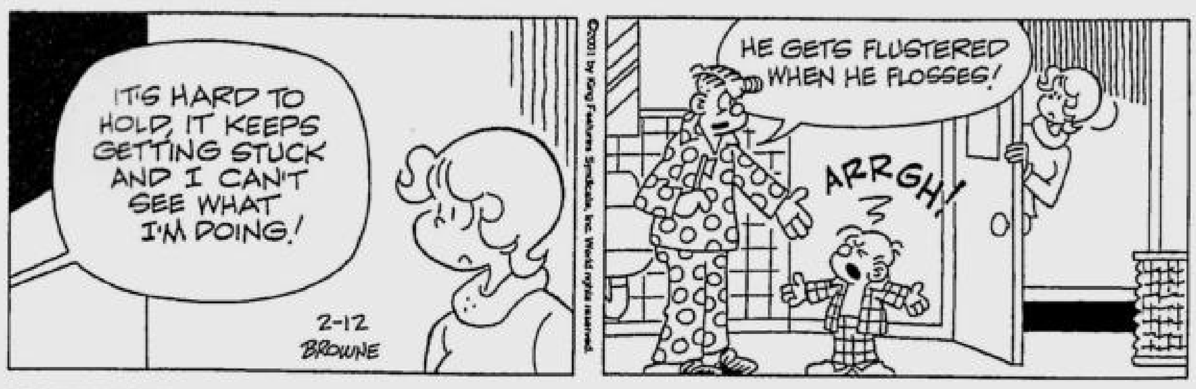
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
No.
BE MINE, VAWENTINE!
SCRAM.
THE DAY IS STILL YOUNG.
2-12

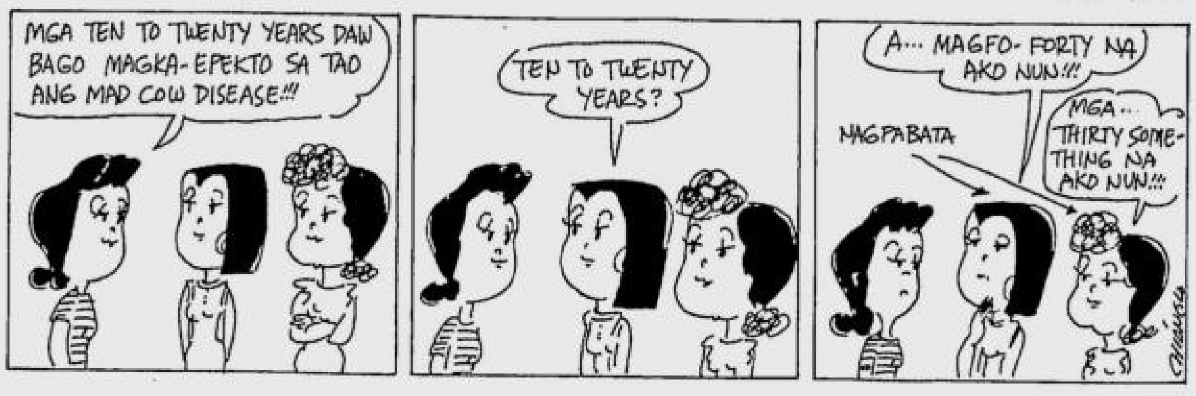
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


IT'S HARD TO HOLD, IT KEEPS GETTING STUCK AND I CAN'T SEE WHAT I'M DOING!
2-12 BROWNE
HE GETS FLUSTERED WHEN HE FLOSSES!
ARRGH!

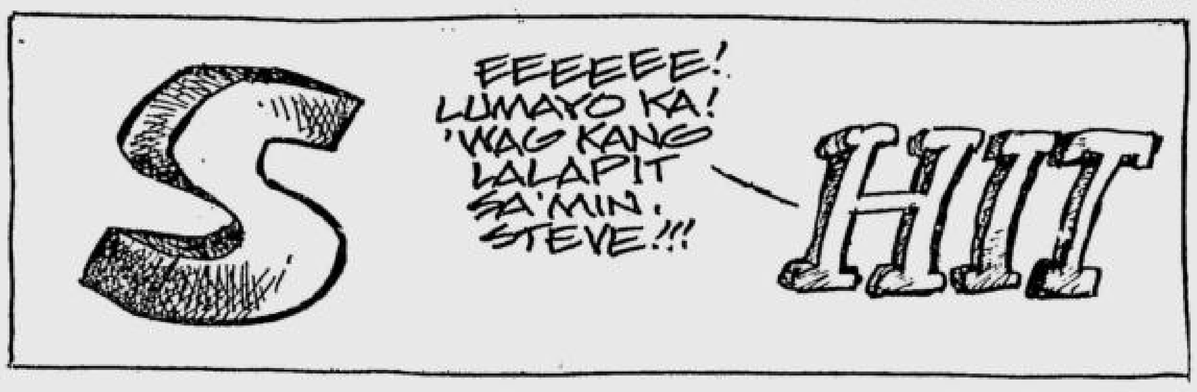
LOVEKNOTS

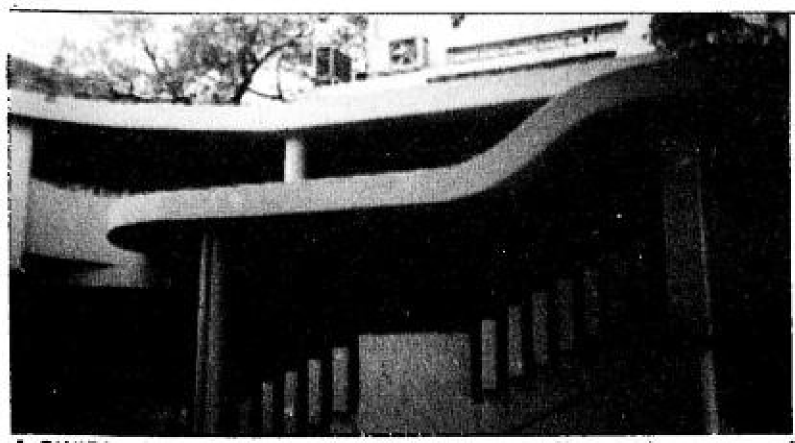
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA TEN TO TWENTY YEARS DAW BAGO MAGKA-EPEKTO SA TAO ANG MAD COW DISEASE!!!
TEN TO TWENTY YEARS?
A... MAGFO-FORTY NA AKO NUN!!!
NAGPABATA
MGA... THIRTY SOMETHING NA AKO NUN!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


S
EEEEEE! LUMAYO KA! 'WAG KANG LALAPIT SA'MIN, STEVE!!!
HIT



A SWIRL of concrete waves over outdoor stair. The rigid geometry of concrete rectangles follows the steps all the way to the ground.

The Art-Deco splendor of FEU

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

EACH month, the Heritage Conservation Society sponsors a visit to a heritage place in Manila for members, guests and the public. Chosen for their unique heritage qualities, the places are normally not accessible to the public.

Society members visited the Far Eastern University campus on Dr. Nicanor Reyes Street (formerly Morayta) in the overpopulated University Belt last month.

The FEU campus is one of Manila's surprising urban secrets. As early as 1940, Dr. Nicanor Reyes, founder of the university, envisioned the

THE ART-DECO/ p. D2

> Nicanor Reyes had envisioned the campus to be an urban oasis. Now FEU has become true to the vision of its founder

Lucky Me! LUCKY MOMMY

Anak na marunong,
swerte ng inang katulong.

"*...squatter ako, katulong lang ang nanay ko*"—mula sa valedictory speech ni Nathan Cruz, Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Arts in English Studies sa UP Diliman, bunsong anak ni Aling Cristy Cruz.
Si mommy Cristy ay isang katulong, taga-laba at taga-alaga ng bata. Sa tiyaga, napagtapos niya ang kanyang mga anak. Di man siya nakapag-high school, ang kanyang mga anak naman ang tumupad ng kanyang pangarap at nagbigay ng suwerte sa kanyang buhay .

CRISTY CRUZ

Lucky Me!®
Sumasaludo at sumusuporta sa mga lucky mommy.

Our new Real Flat TV.
What a scene-stealer.

The Philips Matchline 29" Real Flat TV deserves the limelight.

Philips presents another technological wonder — the Philips Matchline 29" Real Flat TV. It combines the latest in audio-visual technology with the coolest design. While its Real Flat Picture Tube displays perfect pictures from any angle, its cutting edge design looks great in our home. That's why the Philips Matchline Real Flat TV is a truly exciting home cinema experience. We've got to admit, things are getting better...

Real Flat Picture Tube •
Double Window •
Incredible Picture •
Incredible Surround •
Anti Reflection Coating •
Active Subwoofer •

MATCHLINE

21" MATCHLINE
29"
29" POWERVISION

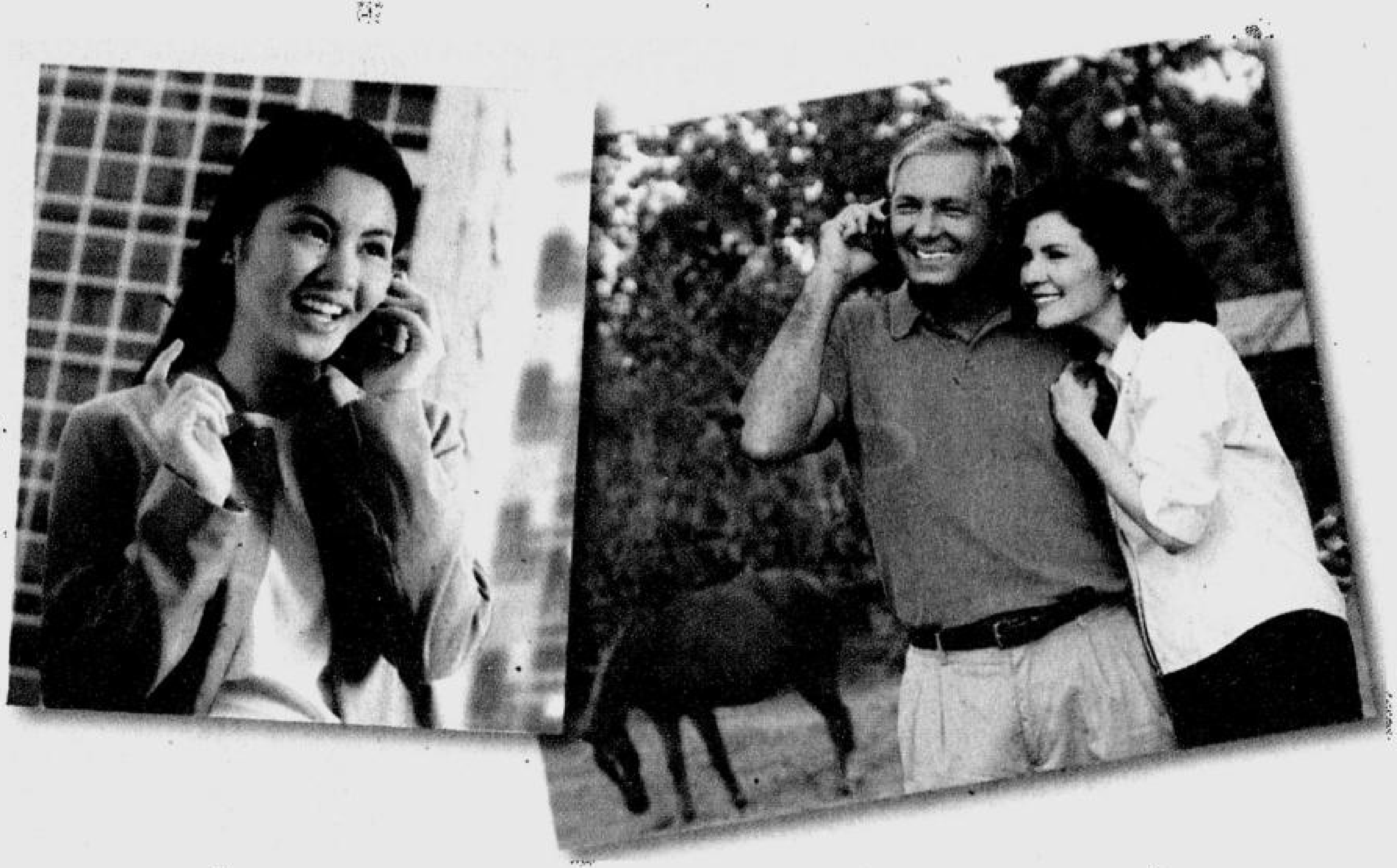
service

Visit www.asia.philips.com

PHILIPS
Let's make things better.

Drop by the Philips Booth at the Automatic Centre Appliance Expo, Alabang Town Center until March 31, 2001.

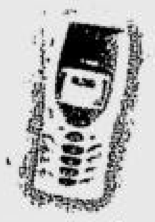
Getting close is so much easier when you connect Globe to Globe.

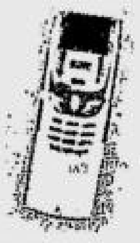


Globe Family Value

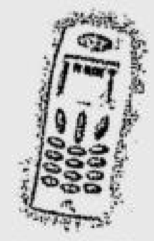
1+1 Deal

Enjoy a great offer on your first line.
You may even get your second line for free!

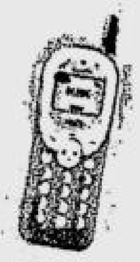

Nokia 8250


Nokia 8890

Nokia 5110i


Siemens S40

Nokia 3310


Philips Azalis

YOUR FIRST LINE

Sign up for any of our subscription plans with your choice of cellphone.*

Handset	Personal	Business/ Executive/ CEO
Nokia 8890	₱ 27,500	₱25,500
Nokia 8250	₱ 17,000	₱15,000
Siemens S40	₱ 15,000	₱13,000
Nokia 3310	₱ 6,000	₱ 4,000
Philips Azalis	₱ 5,000	₱ 3,000
Nokia 5110i	₱ 3,500	₱ 1,500

YOUR SECOND LINE

Get it FREE or at further discounted rates. Your choice of subscription plan or prepaid.

Plan Subscription

Personal ₱799 monthly	Business ₱1,331 monthly	Executive ₱1,997 monthly	CEO ₱2,662 monthly
₱25,500	₱23,500	₱21,500	₱19,500
₱15,000	₱13,000	₱11,000	₱ 9,000
₱13,000	₱11,000	₱ 9,000	₱ 7,000
₱ 4,000	₱ 2,000	FREE	FREE
₱ 3,000	₱ 1,000	FREE	FREE
₱ 1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE

Prepaid Plus

The higher your first line plan, the bigger the savings on your Prepaid Plus phone kit.

Cost of Prepaid if 1st line is Personal	Cost of Prepaid if 1st line is Business	Cost of Prepaid if 1st line is Executive	Cost of Prepaid if 1st line is CEO
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
₱7,690	₱7,390	₱7,040	₱6,590
₱6,590	₱6,290	₱5,940	₱5,490
₱4,990	₱4,690	₱4,340	₱3,890

Waived registration fee saving you ₱1,650 per line when subscribing to this 1+1 Deal!

Drop by any Globe Telecom Business Center or accredited dealer.
Prepaid deal exclusively available at Business Centers. Get the best value from March 11 to April 16, 2001.

All you need to do is:

1. Visit the nearest Globe Telecom Business Center or any accredited dealer nationwide with these required subscription documents:
   a. Identification card (e.g. valid ID with picture)
   b. Proof of Billing (e.g. utility bills, credit card statement)
   c. Proof of Income (e.g. ITR, payslip or latest credit card statement with minimum credit limit of ₱10, 000 per line)
2. To avail of this deal, you will need to purchase two lines: your choice of two subscription plans, OR one plan and one Prepaid Plus.
3. Both handsets must be registered under one and the same subscriber name.
4. Application shall be subject to the following policies:
   a. Subscription plan upgrade is allowed at any time. However, downgrading of plan under 12 months from date of activation shall only be allowed with the payment of ₱10,000 downgrading fee per line.
   b. Termination of plan under the period of 18 months shall be subject to a termination fee of ₱10,000 per line.
   c. Transfer of ownership under a period of 18 months from date of activation will require the settlement of a ₱10,000 transfer fee per line (exclusive of current administrative charges).

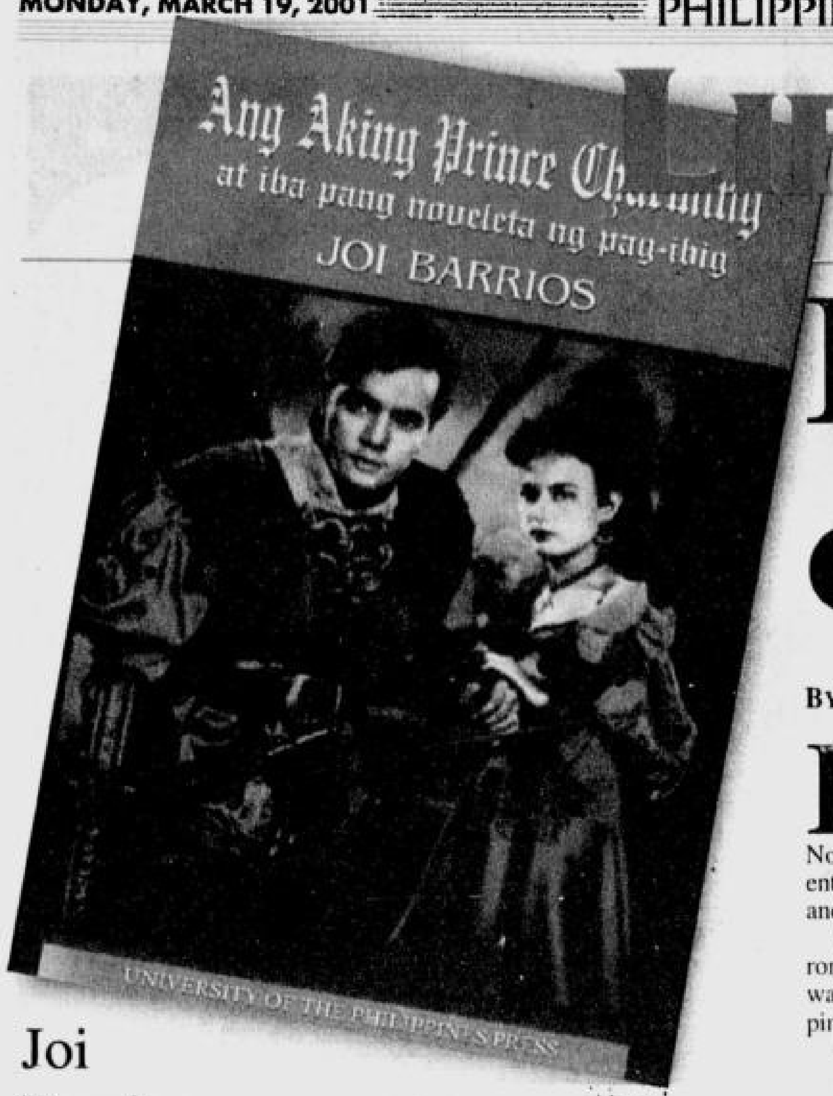
Monthly Service Fees shown above are inclusive of VAT and FCA.

*** If you are subscribing to two plans, the phone with the higher value is considered your first line.**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0650, Series of 2001.

Globe
HANDYPHONE
It's all in your hands

Hotline: 730-1000 / www.globe.com.ph


Ang Aking Prince Charming
at iba pang noveleta ng pag-ibig
JOI BARRIOS
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES PRESS

Joi Barrios bubbles over with ideas, words and images and revels in squeezing drops of detail in each story

Filipina conjurer

By Rowena C. Burgos

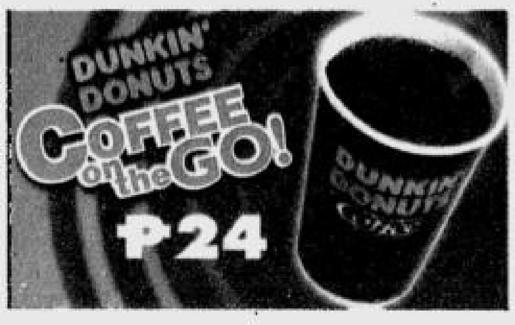
LIFE has a way of imitating art in the world of Joi Barrios, poet, playwright, theater actress and teacher.

Like in her new oeuvre, "Ang Aking Prince Charming at Iba Pang Noveleta ng Pag-ibig," Barrios shows a world where politics and prose are entwined, where tragedy and comedy coexist and where truth can be stranger—and more compelling—than fiction.

Originally published by Anvil Publications as part of its feminist alternative romance book series two years ago, Barrios' fourth tome compiles five heartwarming novelettes and three essays tackling the romance tradition in Philippine literature.

"Ang Aking Prince Charming at Iba Pang Noveleta ng Pag-ibig," published

FILIPINA/ p.E2



No More
WART WORRIES!

REMOVAL OF ALL KINDS OF WARTS, MILIA,SYRINGOMA, SKIN TAGS, CHOLESTEROL DEPOSITS AND FLAT MOLES.

WITH THE USE OF THE MOST ADVANCED, HIGHLY-EFFECTIVE METHOD THAT LEAVES YOUR SKIN **CLEARER, CLEANER & CLOSER** TO YOUR DESIRED BEAUTY!

FOR DISCREET, PROFESSIONAL SKIN CARE:

DERMATRIUM
SKIN & COSMETICS SURGERY CLINIC
MAKATI: G-11 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
QUEZON CITY: 1157-C MRE Bldg., Quezon Ave., Q.C.
ALABANG: UG-6 Industrial Enterprises Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road, Alabang, MM

CALL OR VISIT US NOW!
MAKATI: 893-5449 • 893-5387 • 893-5403
Q.C.: 374-5174 to 75 • ALABANG: 807-4403 to 04

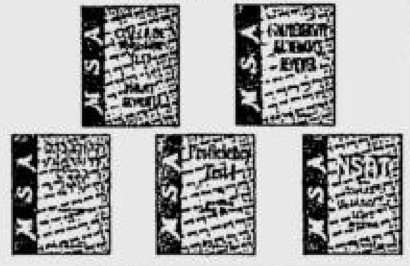
WE ALSO OFFER SLIMMING TREATMENT!

Test yourself for the
"Challenging and Almost Real"
College Entrance Tests Questions by answering all the
MSA Reviewer Books.

MSA
ACET
UPCAT
MSA SIMULATED COLLEGE ADMISSION TEST

P 358 /copy
P 448 /copy

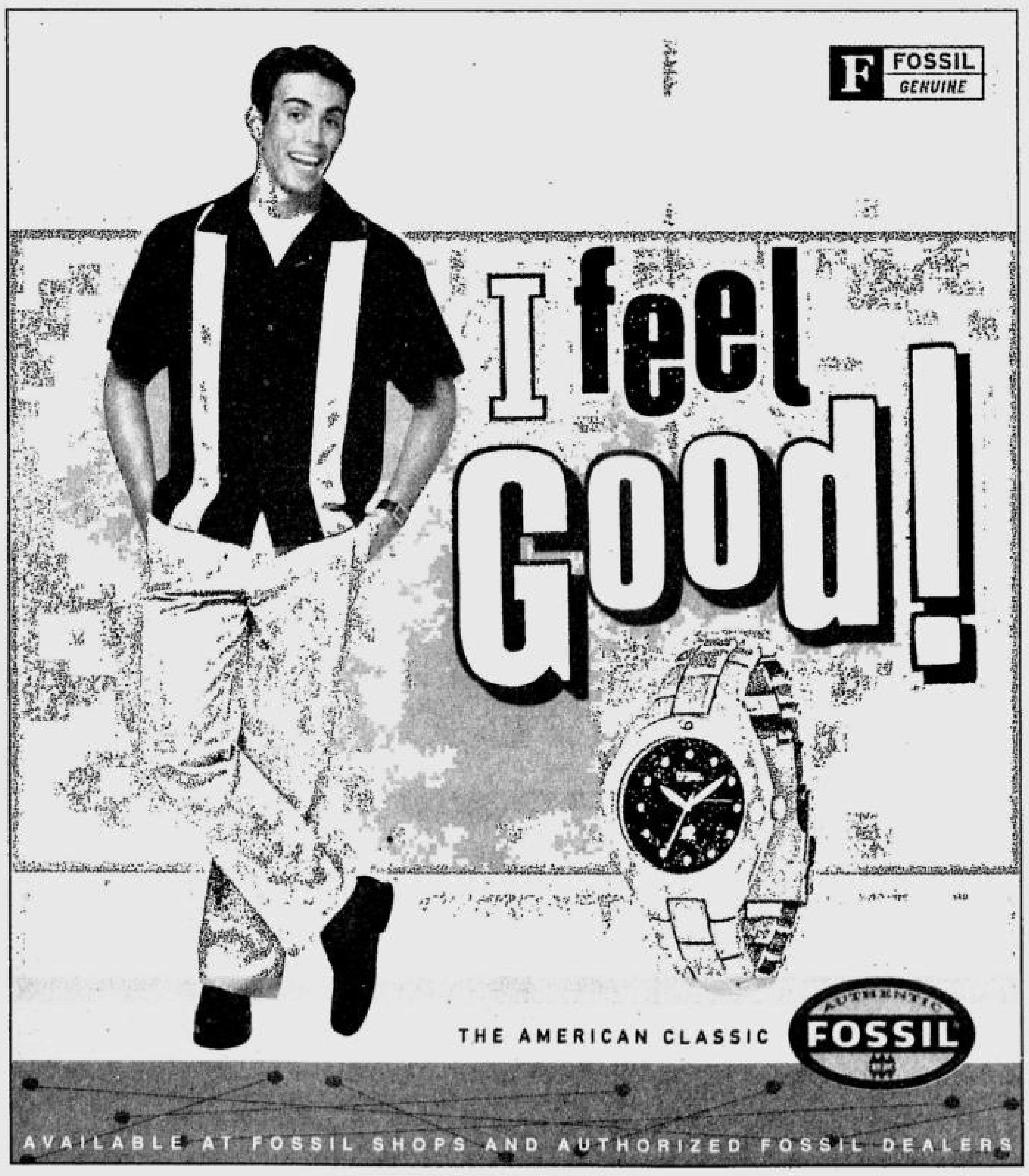
College Entrance Test and NSAT Reviewer



P 630 /set of 5 books

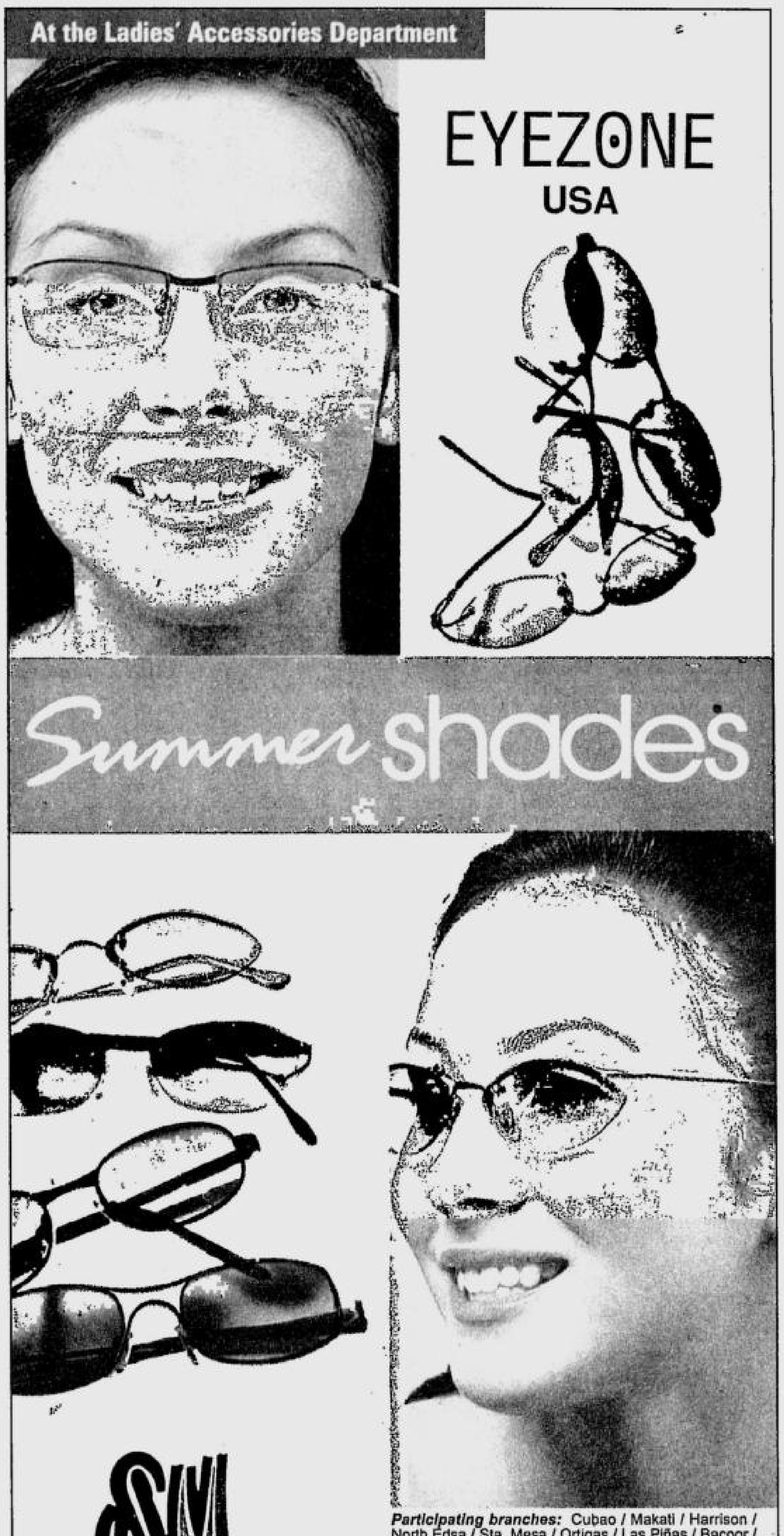
MSA College Entrance Test Review
for UP, ATENEO *and* La Salle
March 19 - April 7 Mon to Sat (1-1/2 hours per session)
April 16 - May 26 M-W-F to T-Th-S (1-1/2 hours per session)

MSA TUTORIAL AND REVIEW CENTER
305 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel : 435-6062 929-9145
Quezon City 929-9159 435-6063
Antipolo 646-8245
Cainta 646-8243
Alabang 850-6550 850-6551



AVAILABLE AT FOSSIL SHOPS AND AUTHORIZED FOSSIL DEALERS

At the Ladies' Accessories Department



Participating branches: Cubao / Makati / Harrison / North Edsa / Sta. Mesa / Ortigas / Las Piñas / Bacoor / Fairview / Manila / Pampanga / Cebu / Iloilo

SM DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU

"HOY!"
Pwede nang manalo in 2 ways! Tawag na sa 1•908 1•000•000

Maging contestant na pwedeng manalo ng **P2 million** sa **"Who Wants To Be A Millionaire"** o maging isa sa **20 winners*** ng instant prizes every episode sa **Call & Win** promo.
Call using any of the ff: PLDT NDD, Fonkard, Touchcard or Teletipid. Promo runs until April 12, 2001. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1335, Series of 2000. * Approved by DTI-NCR. See print ad mechanics for details.

LOVELY COMPANY. (Seated from left) Rebecca Anonuevo, Ophelia Dimalanta, F. Sionil Jose, Rodney Bell and Ferdie Lopez; (standing) Mike Coroza, Cirilo Bautista, Ralph Galen, Erlie Mendoza, Ronald Baytan, Lumsden, Dunn and Carlos Aureus

BRITISH Council Manila director Rodney Bell presents certificate of attendance to conference participant while UST Writing Center head Ophelia Dimalanta looks on.

A literary fiesta with British writers

British fictionist Suzannah Dunn and Scottish poet Roddy Lumsden find the Philippines a world waiting to be written during the fifth Philippine-British Literary Conference

HOW does it feel to hobnob with and listen to the heirs of the King's. English? It's loverly, quite loverly.

And loverly it was when the British Council held the fifth annual Philippine-British Literary Conference, bringing to the country two of the most exciting writers in the United Kingdon, fictionist Suzannah Dunn and poet Roddy Lumsden.

Filipino lovers of literature eagerly flocked to their talks and were captivated by the readings and explication of their works. The British twang and, in Lumsden's case, the Scottish brogue (he comes from Edinburgh, Scotland), added to the magic of the readings.

This year, the conference was broadened with two legs: Manila and Bacolod. The Center for Creative Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas (UST-CCWS) hosted the Manila swing, the University of St. La Salle hosted the Bacolod version. Lumsden and Dunn were in both legs. Two sets of Filipino writers joined them.

Because of the readings, the delegates feasted on the British writers' books, a few copies of which had been made available for the conference. Dunn's stories, written in a tone that is girlishly intimate and Mansfield-like, achieved their full brilliance in spoken form. Ditto with Lumsden's works, which are mostly about romance, infatuation and inebriation, with a tone that is half-bragging and half-self-disparaging.

Both writers are just in their 30s and were understandably excited about the trip, their first to Asia. Dunn was pretty, prim and proper; Lumsden was baby-faced, a little portly, and came with just a bag that alarmed the British Council staff who thought his baggage had been lost in transit. No, he said, he really came with just a bag and would just buy the clothes he needed in Manila. "Take us to Megamall," Lumsden and Dunn reportedly asked their hosts. So they crossed time zones just to make Henry Sy richer by a few pounds? That, perhaps, is what they call British understatement.

But even a fine poet like Lumsden couldn't restrain himself when he checked the prices of the shirts in the department store. "So cheap!" he exclaimed and bought enough to last him till Scotland becomes independent.

THEATER'S Aurora Yumul

PERFORMANCE artist Vim Nadera

BEAT poet Lourd de Veyra

Writing as entertainment

Of course, they didn't come to Manila to shop but to explain the whys and wherefores of creative writing. For Lumsden, poetry is both expressive and entertainment. The latter he gets to do when doing readings, for which he has acquired quite a reputation in England. Much like the DJ and the stand-up comic, a poet who can read well has become the rage in the UK. Lumsden, who was a finalist in last year's T.S. Eliot poetry prize, earns good money for it. (Later in the UST conference, local writers did their own readings. Vim Nadera, Ronald Baytan, Neil Garcia, Mike Coroza, Lourd de Veyra and Aurora Yumul showed they could survive on their readings if they decided to lead the poetic hobo's life in England.)

There are "several strands" on why Dunn became a writer. For one, she does not like a 9-5 job (although now as head of the creative writing program of the University of Manchester, she does that exactly). "My impetus is literary," she explained. "I like people's lives. There's something about hidden stories."

RODDY Lumsden and Suzannah Dunn

There's also something hidden about language. The conference, with the theme "Mapping the Literary Terrain: Writing in English in the 21st Century," sought to chart the future of literature in English. But for Dunn, the charting is inherently personal, a personal struggle with language. "I have to be inside language," she explained. "I am afraid of not making my way through it."

Her remarks should console Filipino writers who struggle with English. Rebecca Anonuevo, probably the most exciting young poetess in Filipino today, sounded apologetic at first for being the only writer in Filipino in a conference of writers in English. "Yet I love English because it is the language that brings to me the great minds of writers in other parts of the world when I need most of all to listen to works that speak to the soul," she said. "...I see the usefulness and value of English, because it is the language that ought to present to the world the treasury of Philippine writing as it is written in our languages—whether Tagalog, or Ilocano, or Cebuano, or Ivatan."

To epic poet Cirilo Bautista, who joined the UST meeting, writing is not so much a struggle with language, but a struggle with words to shape the past and mold the world. He remembered his father's admonition: "The world is terrible, son, but don't let that stop you. Shape the past."

Big surprise

The big surprise of the conference was arguably Carlos Aureus, the Bicol-based writer of Catholic fiction, who was not so much concerned with the language of literature, but its soul. Obviously, Aureus had no good word to say about today's run of the mill writings that are self-obsessed and reality-denying. "Can our storytellers, poets and dramatists heal the planet? Would they be willing to broaden their spheres of awareness and ensoul the vehicle? I offer the Catholic imagination as the ghost in the machine."

In the Bacolod conference chaired by poetess-dramatist Elsa Coscuella, Dunn and Lumsden were joined by F. Sionil Jose, Ophelia Dimalanta and Jose Wendell Capili. Jose, a senior associate at UST-CCWS and probably the country's next National Artist in Literature, was his usual angry-old-man self, insisting that Filipino writers write with a social vision and a commitment to their roots. The audience, who had come from all over Negros island, often described as a social volcano, were impressed.

Dimalanta, director of UST-CCWS, couldn't quite agree. "I believe that poetry is its own reality, and no matter how much the poet may concede the pressure of social, moral, political and historical exigencies, the ultimate fidelity is still and must be to the demands and pleasurable promise of the artistic event. There is something in me that strongly balks at conciliating a social audience."

To Capili, associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters of UP-Diliman, writing is a way of seeking legitimacy. He explained his father is a bastard who has suffered as a result of the "marginalization." Capili said he writes about people living on the fringes, demeaned by social conventions and accidents of existence.

The interesting discussions should compel a sixth installment of the conference next year. Definitely, Lumsden and Dunn said they would return to England with fond memories of the Philippines, memories that might materialize later into something literary. But another conference is at best speculative since British Council director Rodney Bell is about to finish his tour of duty in Manila. Well loved by writers and cultural workers, Bell will be sorely missed. To his Filipino friends, he will be forever one of Spender's "truly great"—"who left the vivid air signed with their honor."

Lito B. Zulueta

Filipina conjurer

(From page E1)

by the UP Press, will be launched on Wednesday, March 21 at 6 p.m. at Balay Kalinaw in UP Diliman, QC. In these stories on women and their search and fight for love, Barrios is a playful inquisitor who delights in spinning philosophic insight out of historical detail. Beyond that, however, she delves on a more substantial matter: self-liberation.

"Sintang Malapit, Sintang Malayo" tackles in a light-hearted way a couple's struggle to keep their relationship while the other spouse works abroad.

"Isang Saglit sa Tag-araw" and "Ang Ikalawang Mrs. Hernandez" speak about one thing: broken marriage. The former is related by a wife abandoned by her husband for a younger woman; the latter is from the point of view of a man left by his wife for someone younger. Both stories happen during the Holy Week.

"Ang Diary ni Joaquina" brings us back to the 1930s and presents the struggles of peasant women at that time.

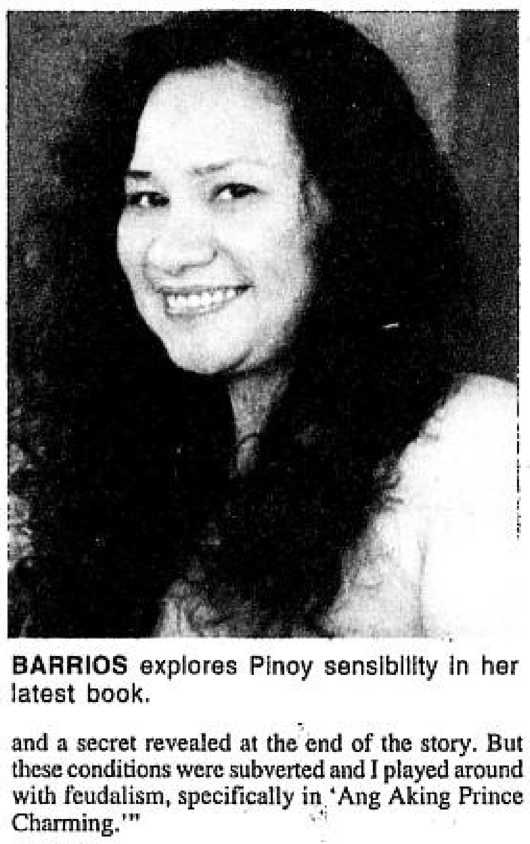
"Ang Aking Prince Charming," Barrios says, is a visual representation of our concept of Prince Charming: handsome, mestizo, tall and above all, a defender of a damsel in distress. The story features a woman in love with her employer. When deluged by adversities in the end, neither her employer nor her childhood male friend helped her. She learned to fight her own battles.

"What the book says is that there's no such thing as a Prince Charming. One can find happiness in many other things, not only in relationships," Barrios says.

The book's cover design, a still shot from "Rodrigo de Villa," a 1954 LVN film which starred Mario Montenegro and Delia Razon, was done by Cesar Hernando.

In the book's essays, the author discusses why readers are attracted to contemporary romance novels and the conventions she applied in writing such genre.

"There should be secret love, forbidden love, reversal of fortune, a happy ending, a strange setting and a secret revealed at the end of the story. But these conditions were subverted and I played around with feudalism, specifically in 'Ang Aking Prince Charming.'"



BARRIOS explores Pinoy sensibility in her latest book.

Award-winning artist

A spellbinder who conjures tricks with the language and keeps readers enthralled till the last page, Barrios started as a playwright "but I didn't immediately succeed." So when Anvil Publishing organized a romance-writing workshop in 1991, which was conducted by Lualhati Bautista, she readily joined. "I'm used to writing about feminism and a whole range of political issues and this was what Anvil had in mind."

Initially, it was the pay that lured Barrios to participate in the workshop. Novelists are reportedly paid P16,000-P20,000 per book.

Secondly, she wanted her neighbors, relatives, students, salesladies, housewives and other women to appreciate her works. There are 10-15 publishers who are into pocketbook publishing. Each one comes out with four to 12 books per month. If one book is read by one to five persons, Barrios says, then, based on the number of printed copies, there are about 5,000-100,000 Filipinos who are able to read one pocketbook.

"At that time, romance was really selling. With poetry, how many people will read you? So since I shifted from drama to poetry to romance, I've felt really good," Barrios says.

She has won several awards for her poetry, essays and plays, including five awards from Palanca Awards for Literature. In 1999, she received the Tagahabi ng Kasaysayan Award, an honor that was bestowed on 100 women achievers in the country and given by the National Centennial Commission-Women Sector.

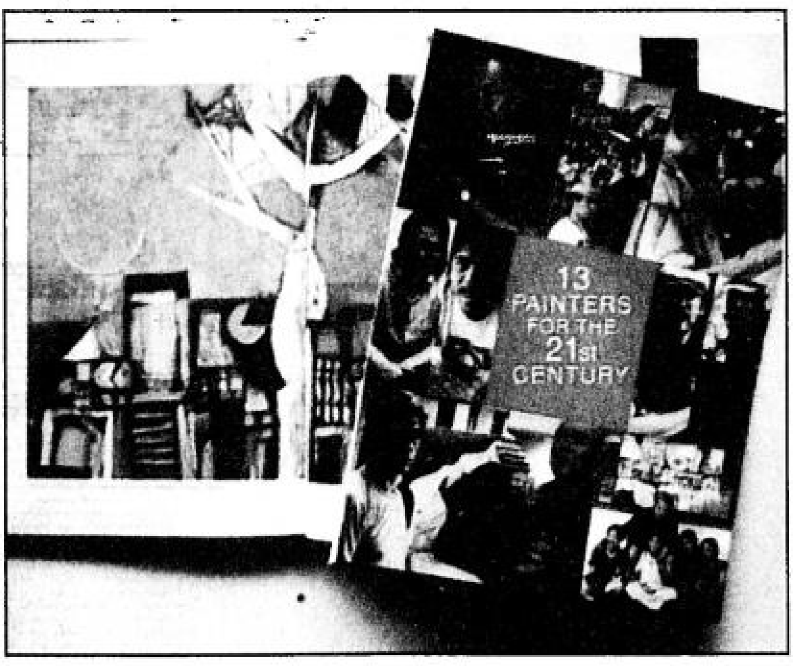
Barrios' poem played a seminal role during the phenomenal People Power II. Her "Mula sa Kankungan," a response to ex-president Joseph Estrada's infamous phrase about having his adversaries picked up from the swamp, was widely circulated on the Net and eventually found its way in street performances. At Edsa II, it was read by recording CEO and street activist Maan Hontiveros.

She is currently translating the "Vagina Monologues" in Filipino for the provincial tour which will be mounted by Monique Wilson's New Voice Company this year.

A natural storyteller who stocks her tales with vivid characters, spirited dialog and good humor, Barrios believes that all experience, however mean, is illuminating; as a priest celebrates Mass, she celebrates aliveness, especially in "Ang Aking Prince Charming at Iba Pang Noveleta ng Pag-ibig."

"Romance is rife with exciting characters. There's the contravida which symbolizes positive qualities like economic power, independence and being educated. But everything has to be well blended and it should not be preachy. Just subvert it a little so you can say something different."

E-mail the author at rburgos@ inquirer.com.ph

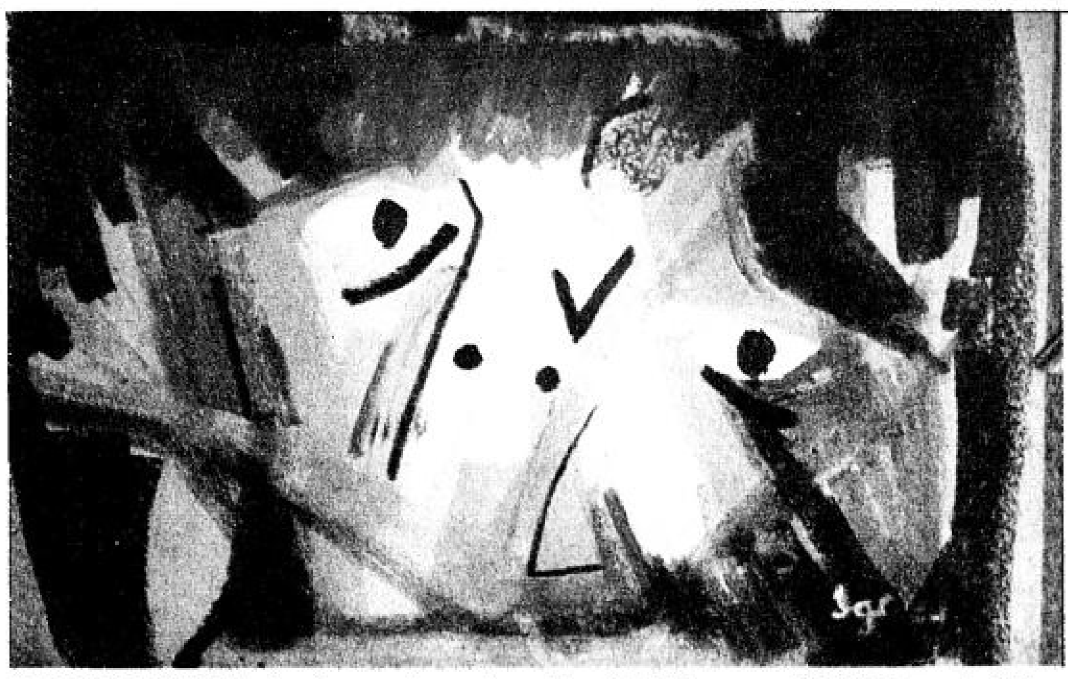


New art book

SIKAT Books will launch "13 Painters for the 21st Century" on March 24 at 6 p.m. at the West Gallery (Marisan Building, West Avenue, QC). Artists featured in the book are Arturo Luz, Antonio Austria, Lao Lianben, Norma Belleza, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz, Ang Kiukok, Bencab, Danilo Dalena, Mauro Malang Santos, Juvenal Sansó, Romulo Olazo, Anita Magsaysay-Ho and Prudencio Lamarroza. An exhibit of the works of the artists included in the volume coincides with the launching. Call 372-1194 to 95.

Launching of 'Warsaw of Asia'

JOSE Ma. Escoda's World War II book, "Warsaw of Asia: The Rape of Manila," published by Giraffe Books, will be launched tomorrow at 6 p.m. at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati. The book launching, which will also serve as a reunion of Manila holocaust survivors, is spearheaded by Memorare Manila 1945 Foundation. The 380-page "Warsaw of Asia" contains the untold stories of 76 war survivors and other published documents plus 175 photos, many of which were unpublished before. A freelance journalist, Escoda is also a professor at the Adamson University.



"EYE OF NATURE," by Ige Concepcion on view at the Chef & Brewers, AIC Gold Tower in Ortigas Center. Remy Boquiren joins Concepcion in his exhibit dubbed "Dream Reach." Boquiren, known for her meditative Filipina women as her theme, transcends her works into free forms, taking her art into a completely different level. Both artists use abstractions as an expression of their imagination. The exhibit runs until March 24.

HARTMANN MADE IN GERMANY

MOLICARE
Adult Incontinence Diapers
SUPER ABSORBENT

Six light layers of super-absorbent cellulose fluff on top of a non-slip foil backing ensures that you'll be staying clean and dry all day long. Wetness indicators provide an easy-to-use system for checking when you should change your diaper. Dry-plus fibres, flexible leg-gathers and inner anti-leak cuffs fit your form and make sure you're comfortable.

The special Dry-Plus fluid distribution layer guides wetness into the absorbent core and reliably protects skin against rewetting.

MOLICARE,
another superb product brought
to you by Hartmann,
the Worldwide brand that makes
sure you get only the highest quality.

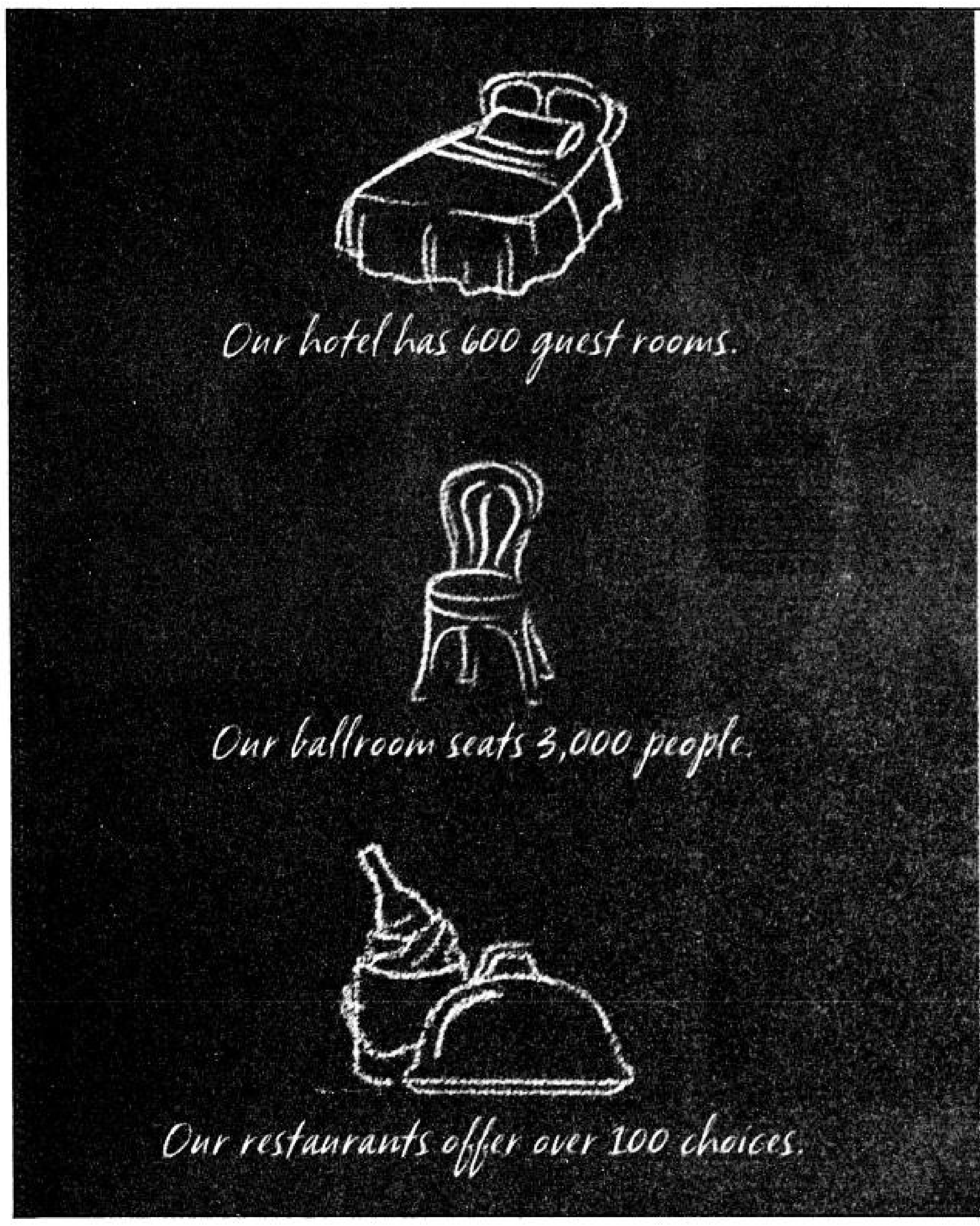
Comfort Wear.

ISO 9001:1994

Distributed by
medical center trading corporation
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
Tels. 631-1715, 631-9355, 637-9504 Fax (632) 631-7869
E-mail Address: medcen@info.com.ph

Pasig Branch Tel. 631-1715
Manila Branch Tel. 711-8374
Cebu Branch Tel (032) 254-2367
Davao Branch Tel (082) 222-4404
Iloilo Branch (033) 320-1413
Lipa Branch Tel (043) 7572051

Available in all
mercury drug
Stores Nationwide


Our hotel has 600 guest rooms.
Our ballroom seats 3,000 people.
Our restaurants offer over 100 choices.

Our next door neighbor has
7 cinemas,
200 shops,
70 food outlets...

Isn't that your idea of a great place to stay?

600 well-appointed guestrooms. Ten function rooms, including the country's largest pillarless ballroom. Whether it's a small family vacation or a large convention, The Manila Midtown Hotel has the numbers to handle it. And when you step out of the hotel, big fun is just right in front of you, since we're right next to the Robinson's Place mall and the exciting Malate party scene. All these to make sure that you fit in perfectly... at the heart of the city.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL
All you need. All in the heart of the City.
25 Years

Corner Pedro Gil & M. Adriatico Streets, Ermita, Manila, Philippines
Telephone: (632)526-7001; Fax: (632)522-2629; E-mail: mmh_bc@netasia.net
http://www.manilamidtown.com

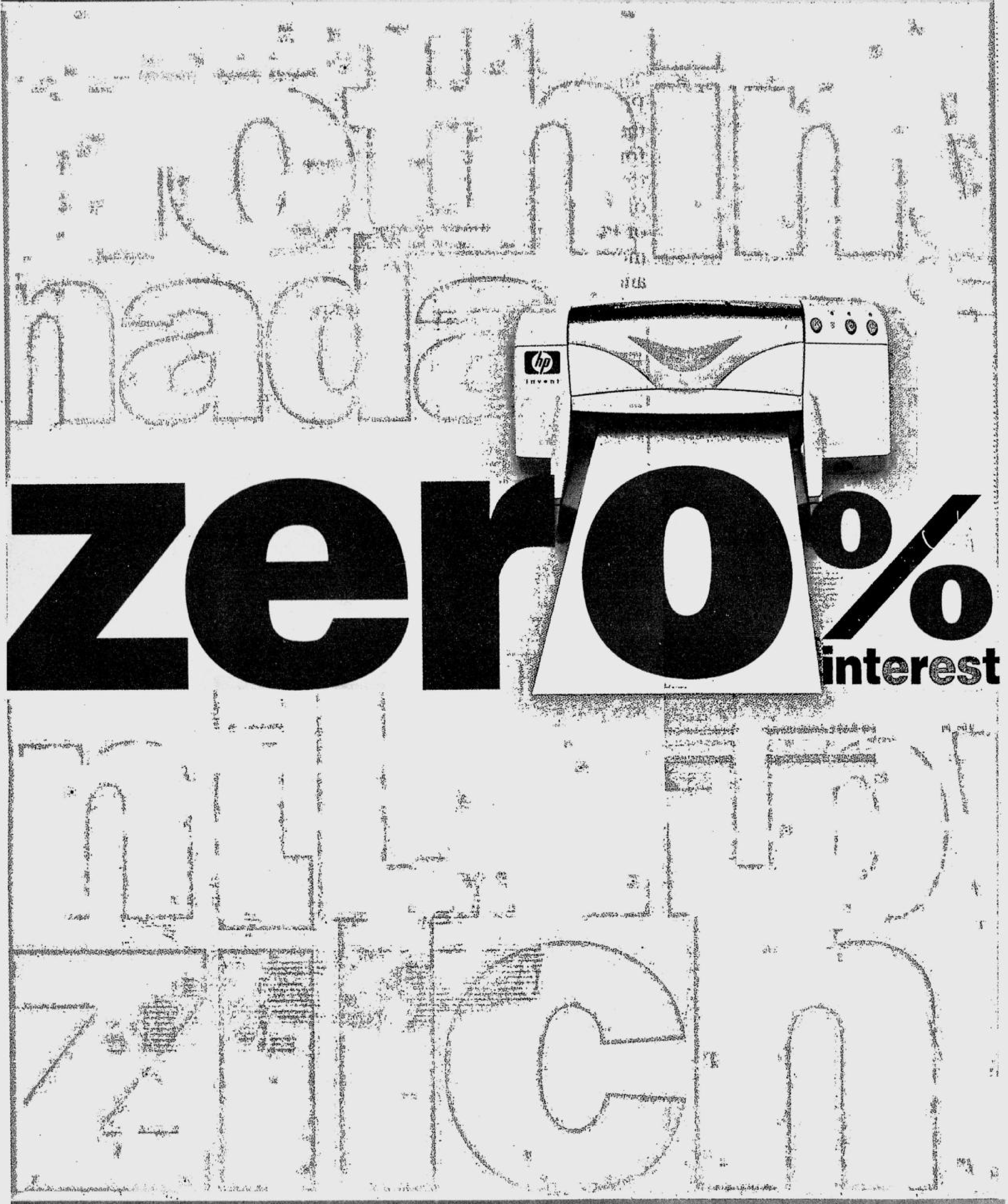
₱9 LANG ANG MISTER DONUT?
OO!
OO!
OO!

Mister Donut basics

Now, it's easier for everybody to enjoy great-tasting Mister Donut donuts! For only ₱9 each, your tummy will surely say "yummy" to Mister Donut's Sugar Raised, Honey Dip, Marble Glazed, Homecut Glazed, and Choco Glazed donuts. By piece or by the dozen, it's real good donuts at a real good price. Kaya naman "in" bilhin. Mister Donut, In Kainin, In Dalhin.

Mister Donut

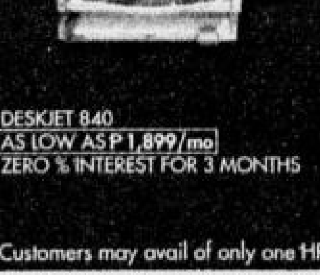
CITIBANK

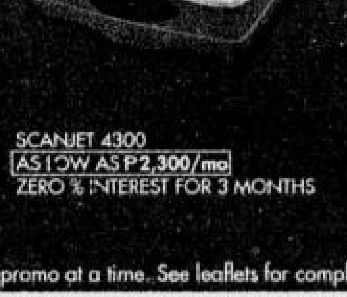


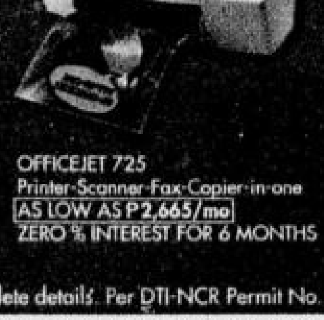
BUY A HEWLETT-PACKARD DESKJET 840 PRINTER FOR AS LOW AS ₱1,899/MONTH!

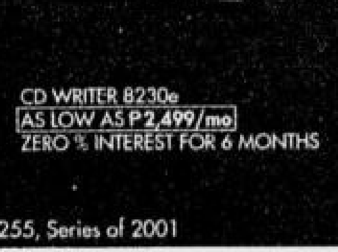
PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN
The longer, the lighter!

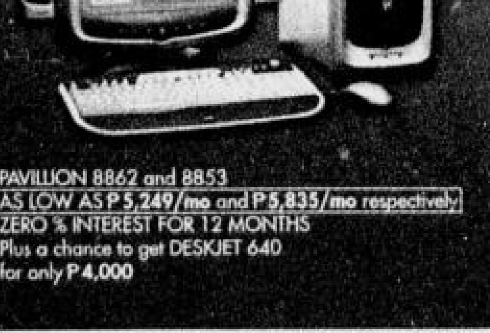
Hewlett-Packard, the leader in inkjet printing technology, and Citibank, the leader in credit cards, give you a great deal! When you purchase any participating HP product with your Citibank credit card, you get it at ZERO percent interest through the Paylite Installment Plan. Promo runs from March 15 to May 15, 2001 only, so rush to your nearest Hewlett-Packard dealer now!


DESKJET 840
AS LOW AS P1,899/mo
ZERO % INTEREST FOR 3 MONTHS


SCANJET 4300
AS LOW AS P2,300/mo
ZERO % INTEREST FOR 3 MONTHS


OFFICEJET 725
Printer-Scanner-Fax-Copier-in-one
AS LOW AS P2,665/mo
ZERO % INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS


CD WRITER 8230e
AS LOW AS P2,499/mo
ZERO % INTEREST FOR 6 MONTHS


PAVILLION 8862 and 8853
AS LOW AS P5,249/mo and P5,835/mo respectively
ZERO % INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS
Plus a chance to get DESKJET 640
for only P4,000

hp
invent

Customers may avail of only one HP promo at a time. See leaflets for complete details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0255, Series of 2001

Participating Dealers: ABC COMPUTERS CO., INC.•ACCENT MICRO PRODUCTS•ASIANIC•CBX CORPORATION•COLUMBIA GROUP OF COMPANIES•COMPEX•COMPLINK MARKETING•ELECTROWORLD•KREZA COMPUTERS•LENTON MARKETING •NEXGEN/PC EXPRESS•OFFICE 1 SUPERSTORE•PREMIUM LOGIC/UNIVERSAL COMPUTERS•SILICON VALLEY•THE COMPUTER AUTHORITY•THINKING TOOLS, INC.•TOTAL QUALITY MACHINES•VILLMAN COMPUTER SYSTEM, INC.

3 reasons to smile
- *Decaf & regular coffee beans* roasted daily within our premises
- Exclusive Appassionato Roasting Process™ makes full-bodied, low acidity and richly aromatic coffee -- as great coffee should be
- Free delivery within Makati on minimum orders of 500 gms

For blends & varieties, call 899-5410 or fax 899-5396/897-6805 or e-mail: bravo@info.com.ph
Visit us at 215 N. Garcia St., Makati City

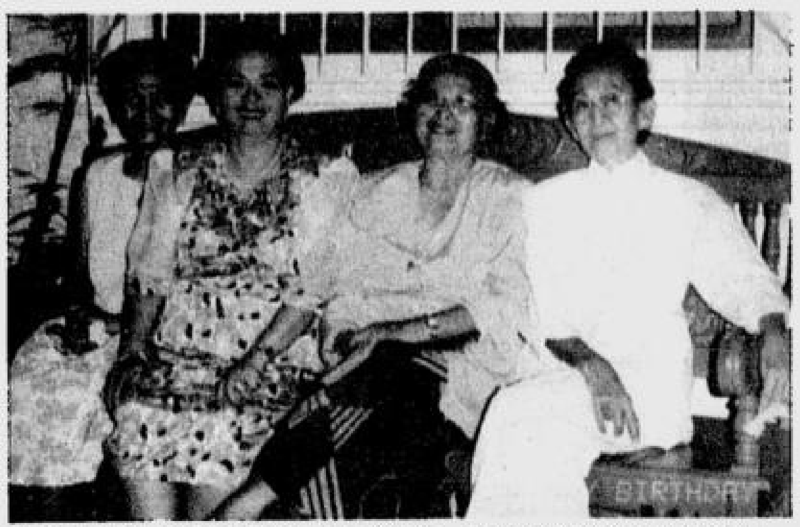
MONDAY,
MARCH 19, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

Arts/Design

Pilsner Urquell *the world's most imitated lager beer is now available at leading hotels, bars and restaurants*

Inquire at
Bravo Coffee Corporation
Tel: 896-9572 or Fax 899-5396/897-6805
or e-mail: bravo@info.com.ph
215 N. Garcia Street, Makati City



SISTERS ROUGE. The Manahan sisters—Juanita, Victorina and Andrea—with US-based sister Maxima (second from left)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PELIKULA

The Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino will give the Natatanging Gawad Urian for Lifetime Achievement to the Manahan sisters, masters of makeup who are behind some of Philippine cinema's most enchanting and moving images

Sisters of Filipino movie magic

By Lito B. Zulueta

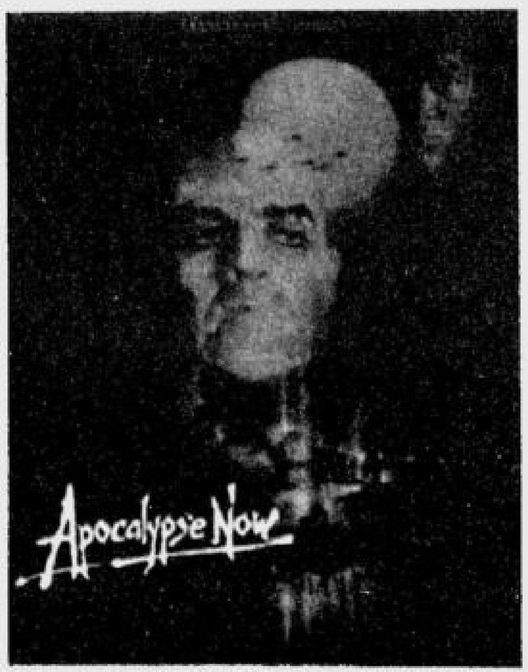
THE MAGIC of the movies is an oxymoron. It does not give justice to the hard work and creativity that go into a memorable shot or scene. Definitely it does not give justice to the painstaking efforts and selfless sacrifices of movie artisans like the Manahan sisters, one of Philippine cinema's best-kept secrets.

The Manahan sisters—Andrea, Victorina and Juanita—are the geniuses behind some of Philippine movies' most magical effects. With a dab of cosmetics, a fistful of prosthetics, and even a roll of toilet paper, they have been able to create character out of nondescript actors and striking visual effects out of meager budgets. Their skills—part instinct, part improvisatory and part creative demiurge—have even won the praise of international filmmakers like Francis Ford Coppola, who asked for the services of the siblings when he made his mordant war masterpiece "Apocalypse Now" in the Philippines in the '70s.

"Apocalypse Now" was a collaboration of the three sisters, but for most of the time, they worked separately in productions that ran the gamut of film genres and film studios. Andrea, 78, known as Mama Ateng, started at LVN, then continued at Lea Productions and Tagalog Ilang-Ilang. Victorina, 76, or Nanay Tinay, apprenticed with her older sister and came on her own in 1956. Juanita, 65, known as Mommy Nitz, started with Dolphy's RVQ Productions and went on to work with Lea and Cirio Santiago Productions.

Andrea apprenticed with the chief makeup artist of LVN right after the war. According to Amor Olaguer and Eileen Meneses in their article "The Manahan Sisters: Living Legends in Movie Makeup" in the newest issue of Pelikula, the film journal edited by MTRCB chair Nick Tiongson, Andrea learned by heart the cosmetic shadings, the numbers and the types of makeup used for ac-

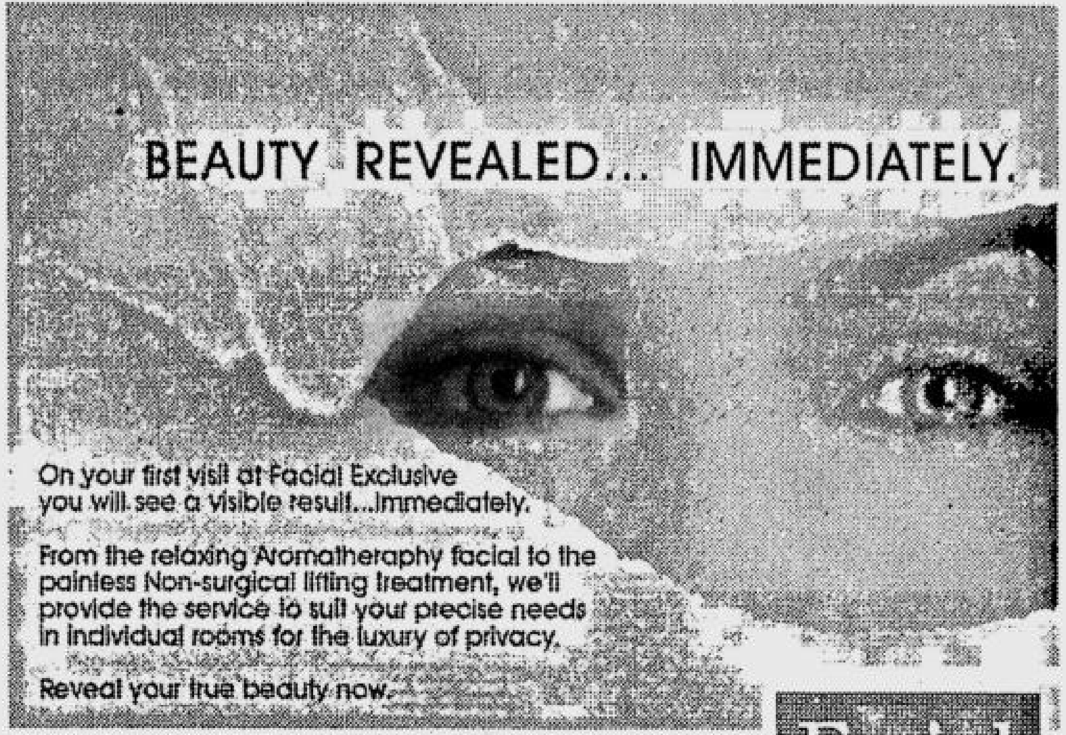
SISTERS/ p.F2



ATTENTION: ALL EMPLOYERS

Medicare contributions from the public and private sectors should be remitted to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation on or before the 10th of the month following the applicable month. Otherwise, penalty charges equivalent to two percent per month of remittable amount shall be imposed for every day of delay.

Paalala mula sa inyong partner sa kalusugan
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
City State Centre Building,709 Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Healthline. 637-9999, website www.philhealth.gov.ph



BEAUTY REVEALED... IMMEDIATELY.

On your first visit at Facial Exclusive you will see a visible result...Immediately.

From the relaxing Aromatheraphy facial to the painless Non-surgical lifting treatment, we'll provide the service to suit your precise needs in individual rooms for the luxury of privacy.

Reveal your true beauty now.

5th Flr. Lansbergh Place 170 T. Morato cor. Sct. Castor, Q.C.
Tels. 371-0190 373-1577

Facial
EXCLUSIVE

Why It Pays To Enroll With The Best

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE
When you enroll at WCT, you get education par excellence proven by our 34 years of leadership.
QUALITATIVE AND PERSONALIZED
WCT's programs are based on results which are achieved thru careful attention to the needs and strengths of each student. WCT implements international caliber standards and results.
AND OF COURSE, WILMA C. TAPALLA HERSELF
She's the best reason in enrolling at WCT. Speech educator par excellence, Wilma guarantees you a dramatic change in your speech and personality.

Summer Classes Start Apr. 16, 17, 21, 22, May 21
Scheds : MW, MWF, TTH, SAT, SUN / Morning, Afternoon, Evening

- Speech Dynamics
- Fluency & Mastery of English
- Practical Grammar
- Business Writing
- High Impact Com.
- Power Talking Skills
- English for Foreigners
- Personality in Action
- Rapid Reading & Comprehension

KIDDIE ACADEMY
(3 to 15 yrs. old)
Speech Arts, Theater Arts, English Fluency, Grammar Reading & Comprehension Character Bldg., Personality Dev.

- Glamour Ride / Finishing Course
- Modern Grammar
- Tagalog •TOEFL •TSE
- Corporate Training
- Private Tutoring All Courses

WCT Wilma Cruz-Tapalla
ACADEME OF SPEECH AND PERSONALITY
SINCE 1967
LEGARDA, SAMPALOC 2600 Rizal Hall, Arellano University 736-7656 736-7657 736-7644
ORTIGAS CENTER 638-8034
GREENHILLS 55 Annapolis St. 722-5620 722-5627

GETAWAY

BONITO ISLAND RESORT
TEL: 8122292/813 5458 | FAX: 8189754
PRE-SUMMER PACKAGE: 2N/3D P3,000/Pax FOOD/ACOM/10% DISC. 20 RESERVATIONS

Munting Buhangin
NASUGBU, BATANGAS
TEL. NOS: 818-1975;818-4798 812-5448;TRKLINE: 810-3594 818-2083;818-0785;812-5679 818-0689 Loc.105

RESIDENCE INN
CALATAGAN • TAGAYTAY • CEBU BLU BIANCO CLARK • ILIGAN
899-9814 / 899-9821/24

3·5·7 BORACAY
899-1793/94
899-1943/44
Where Paradise Begins
COUPLE'S TREAT
4D/3N W/B'FAST, TRANSFER 1 DINNER, ISLAND HOPPING w/PACK LUNCH

Le Soleil de Boracay
MAKATI OFF: 899-8756 895-1777 loc. 331 (036)288-6209
3D/2N STANDARD ROOM DAILY BRKFAST, R'TRIP TRANSFER WELCOME DRINKS
www.lesoleil.com.ph

CEBU PLAZA HOTEL
FOR SPECIAL RATES & CONFERENCE PKGS
MLA SALES OFF: 634-7505 633-1832
CEBU SALES OFF: (032) 231-1231 (032) 231-2064

PARK PLACE HOTEL
FUENTE, OSMENA, CEBU
634.7505-08 loc. 103-104
(032) 253.1131 loc. 205-209
HEAT ESCAPE PACKAGE: 3D/2N, P2,995 net/pax BUFFET B'FAST, RT TRANSFER CITY OR BEACH TOUR & MORE!

CLUB MANILA EAST
GIANT POOLS @ GOLF RANGE SEMINAR ROOMS
660-2805 / 6602801-04
660-1691 FAX: 658-0214
www.clubmanilaeast.com

HENRY'S COUNTRY BARNS RESORT & HOTEL
henrysbarn@yahoo.com
Bagong Kalsada, Calamba Laguna
CONFERENCES/DAY TOURS OUTINGS/SUMMER PACKAGES GARDEN WEDDINGS
☎ 932.8865 / 69

JONEL SPRING RESORT
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
COMPANY / FAMILY PACKAGES
MANILA OFFICE: 371-8415 371-8453
LAGUNA OFFICE: (049) 244-4245 (049) 245-4929

Monte Vista
PANSOL, CALAMBA, LAGUNA
SUMMER/SEMINAR PACKAGES !
LAGUNA: (049) 545-1259/545-2102
MKTI SALES OFC: 899-8488
monte_vista@netasia.net

Villa San Miguel
LAGUNA • ZAMBALES
SUMMER PACKAGES AVAILABLE! DAY TOURS/SEMINARS
Mla. Off.: 851.8558/831.6826
Calamba : (049)545.5271

BAKASYUNAN
For reservations call: 681-5329 681-5369 681-5374
AIRCON TOWNHOUSES NIPA COTTAGE/FUNCTION RM. TENT CITY/FLOATING SHED BILLIARDS/KTV BAR & REST.

Crystal Coast
A Piece of Paradise
BOHOL PACKAGE: 3D/2N-TRI-SHARING P3,750 CHOCO HILLS & PANGLAO ISLAND TOUR
Mla: 634.2029 Main: (038) 411.3178

FOREST HILLS Villa de Resort SUBIC BAY
SUMMER PACKAGES AVAILABLE
PLS. CALL: 814-0238/814-0219 814-0227/636-7687/636-7689
forhills@mail.info.com.ph

Ted's Island Resort
CALUMPIT
MC ARTHUR HIGHWAY, BULACAN
BIG DISCOUNTS... ON COMPANY OUTINGS! CALL Mla. Off: 741.4480
Bulacan : 044-202.5320/675.1630

The best of Boracay
www.waling.com
boracay@philonline.com
Waling - Waling Beach Hotel
waling@boracay.i-next.net
PHONE: 890.8457-58 850.8521

1st e-Bank announces the WINNERS of the 1st eClass PRIVATE BANKING Second Quarterly Draw

Special Prize
World Class Executive Watch
Raffle no. 10059348
Branch - Binondo Nueva

1stPrize
Toyota Echo Verso
Raffle no. 10136698
Branch - Head Office Paseo

- 2nd prize winners: 4 DVD Players
  - Raffle No. 10118128 Branch - Blumentritt
  - Raffle No. 30040599 Branch - Cebu Magallanes
  - Raffle No. 20086799 Branch - Tarlac
  - Raffle No. 40032928 Branch - Ozamis
- 3rd prize winners: 4 Cassiopeia Colour Pocket PC E-115
  - Raffle No. 10072981 Branch - Quezon Avenue
  - Raffle No. 30024940 Branch - Iloilo J.M. Basa
  - Raffle no. 20045535 Branch - La Union
  - Raffle no. 40018599 Branch - Zamboanga City
- 40 Other 1st eClass Members won Gift Certificates worth P1,000.00 each

Be a member of 1st eClass Private Banking and be the next lucky WINNER!

Third Quarterly Draw Prizes
April 20, 2001
*Special prize: 1 Men's World Class Executive Watch •
1st prize: 1 Home Entertainment Package •
2nd prize: 4 Palawan Holiday for 2 @ Club Noah • 3rd prize: 4 Palm Pilots •
Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Certificates of P1,000 each

Grand Draw Prizes
October 19, 2001
1st prize: Mercedes Benz E 240 • *2nd prize: 2 World Class Executive Watches •
3rd prize: Flat Screen Colored TV • Consolation prizes: 40 Gift Certificates of P1,500 each

a proud member of BancNet Non-Stop Banking Network
a METRO PACIFIC affiliate
1st e-Bank
Formerly PDCP Bank
A Thrift Bank
*Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit Number 1880, series of 2000
Member PDIC. Deposits insured up to P100,000.

Sisters of Filipino movie magic

(From page F1)

tors depending on their gender.

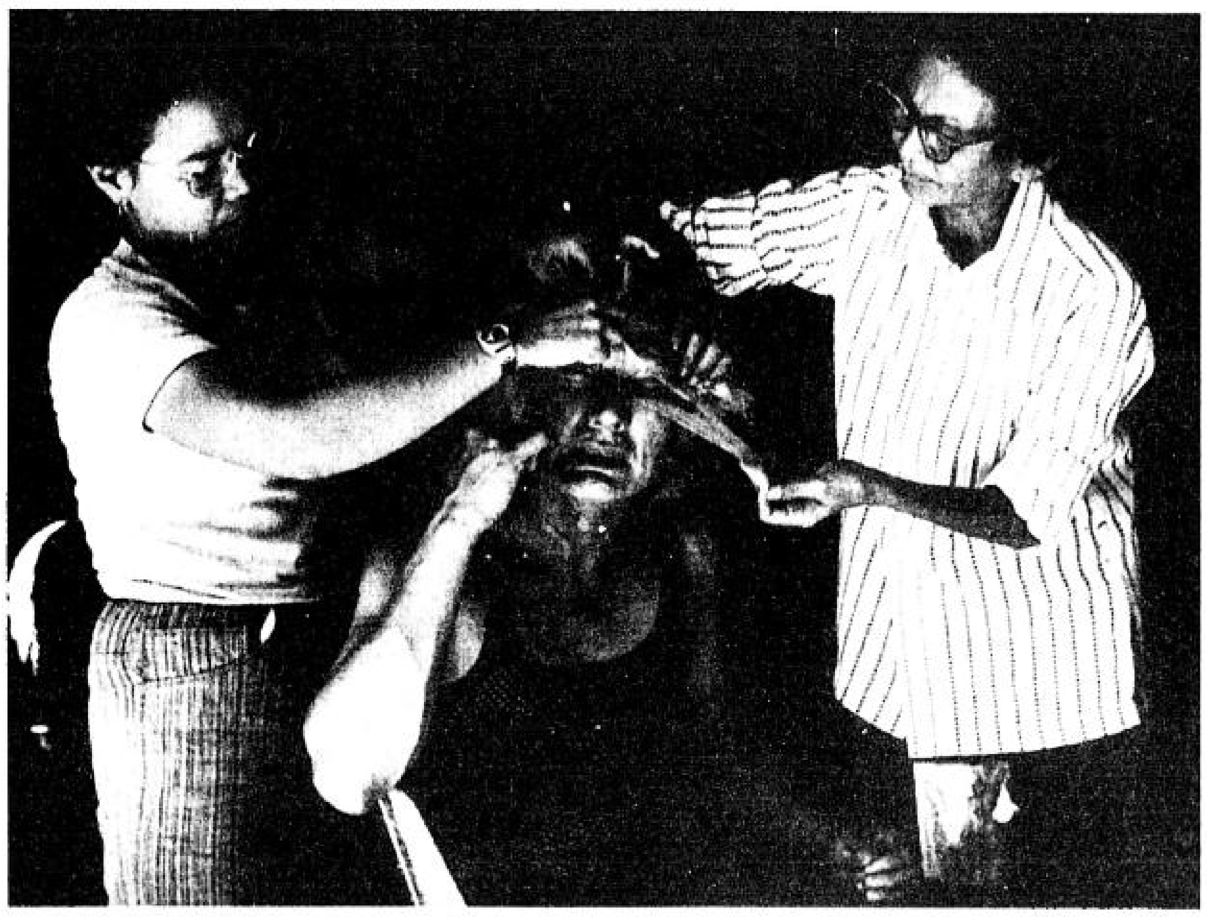
Among the actors Andrea made up were Rogelio and Jaime de la Rosa, Jose "Pempe" Padilla Jr., Leopoldo Salcedo, Mario Montenegro, Nestor de Villa, and Pugo and Togo, the comic duo. Among the women, she made up Norma Blancaflor, Carmen Rosales, Mila del Sol, Rosa Rosal, Delia Razon, Lilia Dizon, Tessie Quintana, Emma Alegre, Luz Valdez, Marita Zobel, Perla Bautista, Charito Solis and Nida Blanca.

Character

Andrea said the task of the makeup artist is not to prettify an actor, but to provide character. The view is shared by her sisters. The three in fact have earned a reputation in the industry as exacting artists. Once their services are called for, they don't quote a price, but rather ask first for the script.

Andrea has seen the shift from black-and-white to technicolor, the closure of the Hollywood-style studios, and the rise of superstars like Vilma Santos and Nora Aunor. She has worked for major directors such as Bernal, Abaya, Guillen and Gallaga. She made the horrifying prosthetics that proved instrumental in the longevity of Gallaga's "Shake, Rattle and Roll" horror series.

Victorina Manahan's first big break was in 1956 when she did "May Bakas Ang Lumipas" for director Eddie Romero. Since there was no production designer then, part of the makeup artist's job was to design the production. If an actress came to the set with her hair styled and her face made-up by the beauty parlor, the director would instruct the makeup artist to undo the job. As always, the makeup artist's job, Victorina said, is to lend character.



ANDREA Manahan (right) putting a prosthetic mask on Dolphy.

Because of her expertise, Nanay Tinay is Fernando Poe Jr.'s favorite makeup artist. No one dares touch the actor's hair or face except Aling Tinay. "He brings me along even if the movies are not his own productions," she said. "I have done even his San Miguel commercials."

Juanita Manahan is the most active of the Manahan sisters in the industry. She got her first big break in Dolphy's seminal "Facifica Falayfay" in 1965.

It was Juanita's association with Cirio Santiago that landed the Manahan sisters their job with the Coppola magnum opus. Santiago joined international coproductions for the global market. One of the productions, "No Man is an Island," featured Barbara Perez, who was compared by the Hollywood press to Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly.

Toughest

Juanita said her toughest assignment was "Igorota," an international production by Jose Nepomuceno starring Charito Solis. Since the movie was shot in the Mountain Province, she had to climb rugged terrain to attend shootings. She also had to transform Charito's mestiza-type beauty because of the requirements of the script; she had to make her an Ifugao indigene. In another movie, "Pulubi," she had to transform Charito's glamorous beauty into a harrowing visage of poverty and mendicancy.

Those were the days when makeup artists were artists in their own right. Today, studios scrimp on budgets and allow actors to come to the set fully made up without regard for the requirements of characterization and believability.

FERNANDO Poe Jr. wearing a special makeup done by Victorina Manahan.

JOHNNY Delgado wears prosthetics by Juanita Manahan.

The Manahan sisters insist on the integrity of their art. For their unique achievement in film makeup through the decades, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics, will give them the Natatanging Gawad Urian for Lifetime Achievement. The recognition will be given during the 24th Gawad Urian on March 24 at the UP Theater in Diliman, QC, which will be broadcast on RPN 9. Invited to pay tribute and present the award to them are two of their favorite actresses in the halcyon days of Philippine cinema: Nida Blanca and Delia Razon.

The Japanese gift of vision and visuals

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

THE JAPANESE have a lovely gift for Filipino filmgoers this year: two Kurosawas, two Ozus, one Kinoshita, one Ichikawa and six other representative films of top Japanese film artists.

Billed as Eiga Sai 2001: Japanese Cinema Masterpieces, this is the annual Japanese filmfest's longest-running edition yet. Starting last Feb. 27, it had screened in three venues. Today till Friday, March 23, it is the Antonio Molina Hall of the PCI Bank Tower II on Makati Avenue, at 7:30 p.m.

All the 12 films featured in the festival have been included on Kinema Junpo's 100 All-Time Best Japanese Films.

"Not Long After Leaving Shinagawa," by Yuzo Kawashima, is comedy of the most vulgar kind, so loud and crude and busy some viewers got a slight headache from all that noise and movements. Yet the chaotic movements are well choreographed so that even if dozens of characters whirl or horse around all at once, they don't trip or bump against one another.

(Surprisingly, the script was cowritten by Shohei Imamura, one of the triumvirate of Japanese film masters that includes Kon Ichikawa and Nagisa Oshima, who succeeded the triumvirate of Mizoguchi, Ozu and Kurosawa.)

"The Yellow Handkerchief," by Yoji Yamada, is an odd combination of road movie and high melodrama. The main story is an adaptation of that famous true story of a returning ex-convict who has asked his beloved to tie a yellow ribbon round an old oak tree if she still wants him. You know the outcome.

In the film, details have been localized. It's now a yellow handkerchief on a pole, and the setting is the poorer section of Hokkaido. The road-movie aspect, however, hasn't lost its Western flavor, including the picaresque adventure, the tight situations and funny escapes.

Heartbreaking point

"The Castle of Sand," by Yoshitaro Nomura, is a blend of the American detective story and European tragedy. The film is distinctly Western in its assiduous tracking down of a criminal and its examination of the mechanics of fate. Note that even its metaphoric title is Western.

A SCENE from "The Castle of Sand"

Though done in 1974, more than a decade after Godard broke all rules of cinematic narration, this film still uses a narrative mode that's naive, if not archaic. When a character, for instance, is seen waiting at the train station, an intertitle appears on screen telling the viewer that the character is waiting for the train to arrive.

Noteworthy is the use of a symphonic work called "Destiny." When a boy and his leprous father are seen trudging across a snowy landscape, the music rises and swells to heartbreaking point.

A BOY leads his leprous father in "The Castle of Sand."

"Zigeunerweisen," by Seijun Suzuki, is a weird tale of transgressive love and physical possession that traverse even the realm of the spirit. The bizarre goings-on among two bosom friends, a complaisant geisha and a man-eating wife alternately baffle and infuriate the viewers.

Set in the 1920s, the film explores a world of decadence and nihilism symptomatic of the times ("just as Japan was about to plunge into the madness of fascism"). It received the Special Jury Prize at the 1981 Berlin International Film Festival.

Breathtaking shots

"Twenty-Four Eyes," by Keisuke Kinoshita, chronicles through 20 years the relationship of an elementary-school teacher and her 12 pupils, from the innocent 1920s until their bittersweet reunion just after the war, with five of the former students now dead and one blinded in the war.

Kinoshita is the director of the 1958 "The Ballad of Narayama," a film of raw power remade into an equally powerful film by Imamura (which grabbed the 1983 Palme d'Or at Cannes, over eminent contenders such as Bresson's "L'Argent," Tarkovsky's "Nostalgia," Saura's "Carmen," Oshima's "Furyo").

In this film, he stages some scenes with such hardheartedness any feeling audience is likely to choke: the teacher quietly telling her elder son his father died in the front; the teacher talking to the stones in the graveyard where five former students lie; the teacher getting to know the new pupils, who are orphans of her former students; hundreds of schoolchildren on the pier innocently singing a rousing song about heroism and sacrifice for the Divine Emperor, while sending their fathers, uncles and elder brothers off to war.

"The Makioka Sisters," by Kon Ichikawa plays like a Japanese Chekhov. In its tale of four shipping heiresses confronting social change or clinging to tradition in prewar Osaka, it strongly evokes not only the rarefied world but also the bitter circumstances of "The Cherry Orchard" and "The Three Sisters."

The film is quite pretty in every aspect, even breathtaking to behold: the slight but precise nuances of gestures and emotions; the slow unfolding movements of the actors that are as slow as the revelation of their characters; the remarkable photography, particularly of the cherry trees in bloom and the lavish kimono display; the lovely, lovely faces of the four sisters, highlighted or backlit by spring or winter light.

Ichikawa is the director of those disturbing World War II classics, "The Burmese Harp" and "Fires on the Plain," twin visions of damnation on earth and the eventual redemption. "The Makioka Sisters" provides an unsettling vision of a world just before it totally breaks down.

Approaching greatness

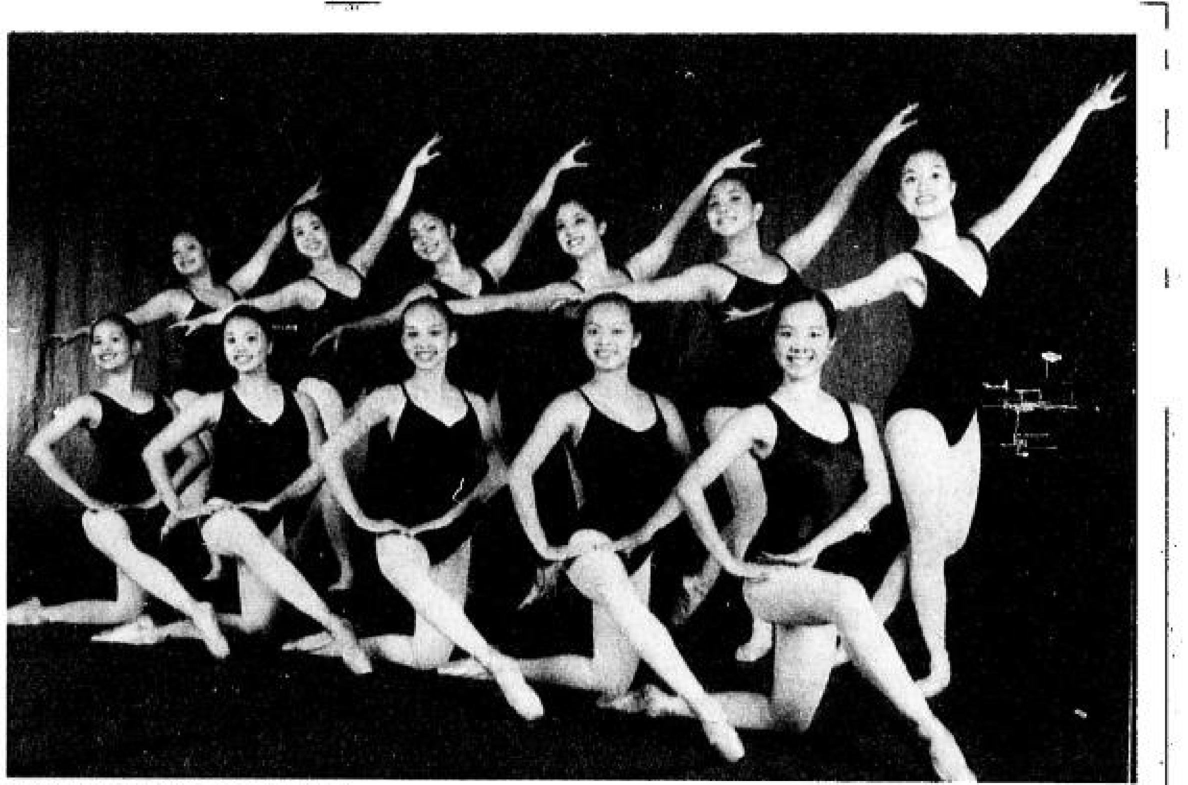
"The Hidden Fortress," by Akira Kurosawa, is one of those samurai epics for which the filmmaker is more known in the West. This is the major source of Lucas' "Star Wars" and "The Phantom Menace." If you've seen those movies, you'd see how faithfully they follow the storyline of this one.

With a big difference. This one is more human in its characters' interactions, more staggering in its fight scenes, more eloquent in its ideas, more awesome in its scale, more real in the actor's craft, more honest in the portrayal of the world and society, more satisfying in its resolution—without the benefit of special effects, weird costumes and makeup, color cinematography, digital technology and millions of dollars in budget. In other words, this one approaches greatness while the other two are merely amusing.

"Late Spring," by Yasujiro Ozu, relates a widower's problem in marrying off his spinsterish daughter. The unusual technique that has come to be associated with this film master—the low-angle shot, the still life, the immobile camera—is most pronounced here, though not as refined as in his later films. This film is where he starts establishing the technique.

If Kurosawa, for all the kinetic movement of his camera and the loudness and energetic motions of his actors, is Fellini, then Ozu, for the stillness of his scenes and the quiet desperation of his characters, is Bergman. As it has often been said of the Japanese film artists, Kurosawa is the most Westernized while Ozu is the most Japanese.

"An Autumn Afternoon" is Ozu's last work, completed a year before his death. It is a virtual retelling of "Late Spring," as his later films often are. He dwells on the same theme and makes only slight variations on the theme. Nothing could be truer than in this final masterpiece.



BACK TO THE CLASSICS

The ballet students of the Halili Cruz School of Dance will be showcased in a ballet recital titled "Back to the Classics" on March 25, 3 and 7 p.m., at the Meralco Theater. The presentation will feature more than 800 selected students who passed the school's evaluation and international assessment program. The young ballerinas, some of whom come from the Quezon City Ballet, will perform excerpts from "Swan Lake," "The Nutcracker" and "Sleeping Beauty."

Troubadour for our troubled times

(From page F4)

CABANGON

the diminutive and goateed artist particularly to thirty- and fortysomethings who pine for the great folk and rock sounds of the '70s and '80s. Steeped in the folkhouse culture of those halcyon times, these aficionados constitute the bulk of the crowd that packs the house every time Noel holds his periodic Sting, James Taylor or Paul Simon nights.

Pied piper

For yet another group of fans and followers, Noel Cabangon is troubador of our troubled times, an artist who uses his craft to call attention to the cankers that continue to plague Philippine society. To these Cabangonites, he is a valuable pied piper to the various causes that animate our people's continuing search for their collective soul and niche under god's sun. Every community affair, whether these be by NGOs, farmers or workers' groups, student assemblies or even Parent-Teachers Associations, would invariably have Noel providing the cultural respite to boring workshops or tedious brainstorming sessions.

Noel, indeed, is a lot of things to a lot of people. But to everyone, he is a friend. In fact, to the chagrin of those who would rather that he be more hard-nosed and business-like when it comes to the marketing of his craft, Noel can be friendly to a fault. He is one who wouldn't (even if he could) say no to every group that comes and requests him to grace their affairs, sometimes for nothing more than a mere thank you. For Noel, the enthusiastic applause and repeated calls for encore seem payment enough, especially if his audience hails from the poor and downtrodden sectors that are closest to his advocate's heart. In such instances, a one-hour engagement could stretch to two, even three hours, of the best jammin', jivin' and plain bonding with old friends from causes past and present.

Part of a continuum

It's all actually part of a continuum that first took shape in 1985 when Noel's career as a people's troubador formally began. That year, he became part of Buklod, an organization of artists that lent their hands to the staging of mass protests against the then ruling Marcos dictatorship. Buklod was to function as an organization until about 1987 when it disbanded, leaving behind Noel and fellow traveler Rom Dongeto, who both decided to carry on as the protest singing duo Buklod.

Throughout his years with Buklod and since parting ways with Dongeto in 1994, Noel never abandoned a solo singing and songwriting-career informed by the influences of his early folk-singing years with such groups as the New Dawn (1982-1984) and Shades of Time (1984-1988).

Noel played with these professional groups (before and during his time as an activist musician) in such joints as My Father's Moustache, Seafront and Hobbit House. As a solo performer, he did gigs in such houses as Buttercup, Miles to Go Before I Sleep, Gasera, Amor Linas, Mayrics, Pook Luntian, and finally, The 70s Bistro, currently his regular roost.

"I was a folkie then, I'm still a folkie now," says Noel when asked to describe his music and his influences, the earliest of whom include Bob Dylan and Peter, Paul and Mary. Shades of these influences are apparent in compositions that he has done for other artists like Cesar Montano and Agot Isidro, for his albums with Buklod, and the latest, for his first solo album, "Pasakalye."

"Pasakalye," which Noel will formally launch in a concert at the Music Museum on March 23, chronicles the artist's travels and travails through a world both human and humanizing. As fellow poet Jess Santiago succinctly puts it in the jacket of this 14-cut indie outing: "*Taglay ng mga awit sa koleksiyong ito ang sangsang ng usok at alimuom sa kalsada at bangketa, ritmo ng trapik sa lungsod, alat ng pawis, tamis ng pagsinta... Narito ang mga hinakdal at pagsama ng isang makabayan kompositor-mang-aawit na pinanday ng may dalawang dekadang ng pagtugtog at pakikihamok.*"

More than anything else, "Pasakalye" is an ode to friendship and no other song in the collection best conveys this message than "Dito sa Kanto," where Noel sings: "*Dito sa kanto/Ako'y unang natuto/Ng kung anu-anong bisyo/at pakikipagkapwa-tao/dito ko natutunan/ang pakikipagkaibigan/Dito ko naranasan/Ang sari-saring kalokohan.*"

Noel will be launched in the concert-launch by friends and fellow musicians Cookie Chua, Cynthia Alexander, Rom Dongoto, Rene Boncocan, Vincent de Jesus, Zach Lucero, Noli Aurillo, Lito Crisostomo, Rene Tengasantos and others.

"Musikalye" is sponsored by the Freedom from Debt Coalition, Jubilee South, NU 107, The 70s Bistro, NA Records and Guerrilla Wear. It is directed by Maribel Legarda, with set design by Boni Juan and lights by Jonjon Villareal. It is produced by Egoy Bans and The East Road Company Inc.

Kenny Rogers Roasters
Grand Blowout!!

Celebrate your SUMMER or GRADUATION BLOWOUT in any Kenny Rogers Roasters outlet and avail of our Grand Blowout Package.

SAVE UP TO ₱124.95!

Plus! get a chance to win exciting prizes!

Palawan ①
One (1) paid trip for 5 persons to DOS PALMAS ARRECEFFI ISLAND RESORT, Palawan
inclusive of 3 days & 2 nights accomodations, food (two breakfast, two lunch and two dinner)

② One (1) Pentium III-733 MHZ 64 MB SD RAM, 14"Color Monitor Windows 98

③ Twelve (12) 3310 Nokia Cellphones (unit only)

only P599 vat inclusive

Dine-In Package for 4:
- One Whole Chicken
- 4 Steamed Rice
- 4 Large Side dishes
- 4 Coke (16 oz.)
- 4 Corn Muffins
- 4 Premium Chocolate Sundaes
- Plus FREE 4 Fun Tumblers

FREE 4 FUN TUMBLERS

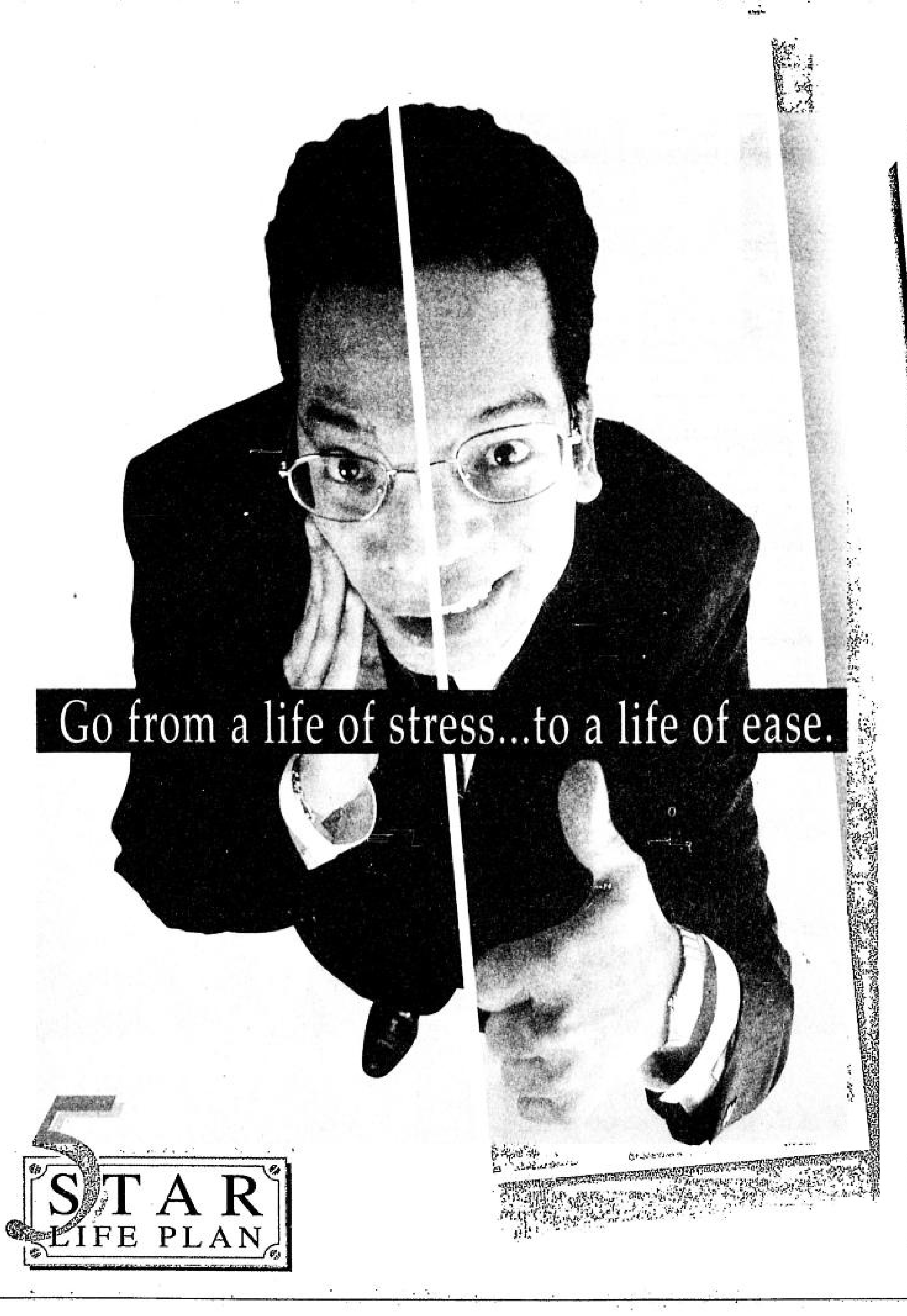
Delivery/ Take-out Package for 4: (PLUS 5% Delivery Charge)
- One Whole Chicken
- 4 Steamed Rice
- 4 Large Side dishes
- 4 Coke (in cans)
- One Dozen Corn Muffins
- Plus FREE 4 Fun Tumblers

For Delivery Call 533-8888
(Metro Manila Area Only)

PROMO MECHANICS:
1. Every single purchase of a Grand Blowout Package comes with one (1) raffle coupon only.
2. All raffle coupons must be filled up completely: name, address, telephone number, signature and any other information that may be required. If incomplete, said raffle stub will be disqualified.
3. Raffle draw will be on May 11, 2001 at the Head Office of Roasters Philippines, Inc.
4. A guest can only win once. In case a name is drawn more than once, the prize with the higher value is given. Prizes are not convertible to cash.
5. Winners will be notified via phone & registered mail. Raffle prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Winners can claim their prize at the Head Office of RoastersPhils., Inc., 6/F Singapore Airlines Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or at the Kenny Rogers Roasters store closest to the address given by winner in the raffle coupon.
6. Employees of Roasters Philippines, Inc. and its affiliate companies, PR agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

Kenny Rogers Roasters There's Goodness Here.
Coca-Cola Enjoy
Nestlé Ice Cream
Dos Palmas

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0602, SERIES OF 2001


Go from a life of stress...to a life of ease.
5 STAR LIFE PLAN

NOW A SMALL FIGURE CAN EQUATE TO BIG SOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER LIFE.

₱105* / day = lifetime protection PLUS any of the following:
(for only 5 years)
- your child's college tuition
- downpayment for your dreamhouse
- vacation money for the family
- emergency funds that grow

or get your pension even before you retire

With Insular Life's 5-STAR LIFE PLAN
you are assured of a lifetime of security and
protection for yourself and your whole family.

All this for as little as ₱105* a day
for only 5 short years.

So, unlike other life insurance plans, this plan
allows you to complete your premium payments
in the shortest time possible.
With premiums that are easily within your means.

Call us or your IL agent now
and see how a small figure can easily
change a life of stress... to a life of ease.

With Insular Life's **5-STAR LIFE PLAN.**

* Based on computation for a 30-year old individual with ₱1M coverage.

"I'd like to know more about 5-STAR LIFE PLAN."
NAME: ____________ TEL. NO. ________
ADDRESS: ____________ FAX: ________
I'm interested to get a policy for:
☐ myself (AGE ___) ☐ my spouse (AGE ___) ☐ my child (AGE ___)
Send me the information by:
☐ mail ☐ fax ☐ your agent (best time to call ________)
Send this coupon to: Product Management Staff, 5F Insular Life Bldg., 6781 Ayala Ave., Makati, or fax to 818-8489 or call us at phone no. 817-3051 locs. 5058/5063 or e-mail us at inquiry@insular.com.ph, or visit our website at http://www.insularlife.com.ph.
PDI

THE INSULAR LIFE
ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.
Securing your future.

Troubadour for our troubled times

Folk musician Noel Cabangon is launching his first solo album, 'Pasakalye,' at the Music Museum on March 23. It's about time

By Ed L. Santoalla

HE is adept both at plucking the strings of his guitar and tugging at the heartstrings of his listeners. Hearing and watching him play, you would remember the description of a performer (Paul Anka) who sings not to a crowd but to individuals within it.

It is Noel Cabangon at his quintessential best when one joins his usual SRO audience at Quezon City's The 70s Bistro every Wednesday night and finds the crowd swaying to the rhythm of his mellow sound, with upraised arms holding lit lighters in the pub's semi-darkness.

The reasons for doing so are as varied as the type of people who frequent Noel's gigs..

For romantics, whether male, female or otherwise, "it's as if he's singing only to me." Fans immediately drown in mush when Noel plays his melancholy originals or launches into excellent covers of love songs by Michael Franks. Kenny Rankin or James Taylor.

Noel's deep and varied range of cover material (from jazz, blues to folk-rock music) and his tenor-tinged baritone singing voice is what endears

TROUBADOUR/ p.F3

Introducing
PYRANTEL embonate
OXANTEL embonate
QUANTREL*

Ang DOBLE Pampatalsik sa Bulate na Gentle sa Bata

QUANTREL*
WORMS

Puksain ang bulate with its clinically-tested two ingredients.

QUANTREL*
WORMS
PYRANTEL

ONE sa Pyrantel, talsik ang mga karaniwang bulate.

QUANTREL*
WORMS
OXANTEL

TWO sa Oxantel, talsik ang karamihan sa mga natira pa. Mas maraming uri ang napupuksa.

PYRANTEL embonate
OXANTEL embonate
QUANTREL*
Anthelmintic

MOST PRESCRIBED NG MGA PEDIA

DOB2E PAMPATALSIK SA BULATE. Gentle sa Bata.

Pfizer PFIZER made it!
Consumer Healthcare Division

Available without prescription.
Alw [illegible] uctions. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

*Trademark of Pfizer, Inc., New York, N.Y., U.S.A. Reg. Phil. Pat. Off.

Bioessence
SKIN AND SLIMMING CENTER

Highly improved
PAINLESS WART REMOVAL

See those brown black pinhead growth in your skin? They are WARTS caused by a virus and could easily spread from one person to another Waste no time to get rid of them, NOW.

Bioessence and Facialhaus expertise will give you a SCARLESS AND PAINLESS WART REMOVAL.

MARCHIN' MARCH PROMO
TWO FACIAL FREE
For every enrollment of
10 REJUV TX
Anti Aging Treatment

Bioessence
SKIN AND SLIMMING CENTER

- CAINTA 681-5310 681-7339 3rd Level, Phase 3, Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
- LAS PIÑAS 873-5784 873-8830 2/F Umeda Las Piñas
- SM MEGAMALL 634-3310 634-3311 5/F Bldg. 2 SM Megamall
- SM FAIRVIEW 419-7549 419-7552 Lower G/F SM City
- SBE-GREENHILLS 727-2117 722-6765 203 Richbelt Tower, Annapolis St.
- LIPA (043) 404-1726 (043) 404-1727 2/F Fiesta World Mall, Marauoy Lipa City
- ZAMBOANGA (062) 992-3002 47 Valderosa St., Zamboanga
- SM BACOOR (046) 502-3568 (046) 571-1536 Lower Ground Floor, SM Bacoor
- DAVAO CITY (082) 226-2305 (082) 224-0306 Circumferential Rd., Marfori Heights
- PAMPANGA (045) 961-1876 (045) 961-1877 (045) 961-1878 Queensland Comml. Plaza, Mahigaya Vill., Dolores

GREENBELT & WEST AVE. Soon to Open!

facialhaus
FACIAL AND PEEL CENTER

- QUEZON CITY 448-7725 371-2931 2/F Dymar Bldg., West Ave.
- CAINTA 646-0450 645-6766 G/F Phase 2, Sta. Lucia East, Cainta
- MAKATI 812-8552 817-2826 2/F Gold Crest Building Makati Comml. Complex
- BINONDO 242-0621 242-2631 505 State Investment Center J. Luna St., Binondo, Manila
- ANGELES CITY (045) 887-0391 (045) 323-5952 2/F BPI Arcade NepoMart, Angeles City
- TARLAC (045) 982-5289 (045) 800-0541 Unit 2 & 3 7th Flr. Anvia Bldg. Zamora St., San Roque, Tarlac City

HOTLINE: 242-0621 • 242-2631

OPEN ON SUNDAYS MALL HOURS: 10AM - 9AM CLINIC HOURS: 8AM - 8PM FREE CONSULTATION

FAIRWAY LANE

Chic and safe with fully developed roads and amenities. Superbly designed and carefully constructed homes with that distinct Crown Asia touch of elegance at incredibly affordable prices.

These best describe Fairway Lane, a fenced-in subdivision with classy and stylish surroundings and untouched and natural greenery providing virtually pollution-free living in the heart of the bustling and developing suburb of Novaliches in Caloocan City.

Crown Asia opens the door to this exclusive estate on Sunday, March 18, 2001. Only 94 homes will be constructed so Fairway Lane residents can celebrate life amid wide, concrete roads, 24-hour security services, round-the-clock deep well water supply, an installed underground drainage system and the flexibility of a design that allows it to readily accept additional telephone and cable TV wires.

Fairway Lane features houses from the Crown Asia Home Series that are planned and constructed to exacting world-class standards. The Crown Asia Home Series features two house designs — named Florence and Tuscany — inspired by houses in the Italian countryside. With a two-tone exterior paint finish, the houses use a modern steel rafter roofing system that is stronger and lasts longer than ordinary wood beam roof systems.

Tuscany has two variants, with different floor areas, where both feature a lot area of 60 to 85 square meters and a loft, a toilet and bath and provisions for a service area and an expanded kitchen. The house with a floor area of 45 square meters can accommodate three bedrooms while the 60 square meter floor area model has enough room for four bedrooms.

Florence is a single firewall home with a loft, a 108 to 130 square meter lot area and a floor area of 44 or 50 square meters. Florence has a toilet and bath, can have as many as three bedrooms and has provisions for a carport, service area and an expanded kitchen.

Fairway Lane's location on Bagumbong Road in Novaliches is near several schools and the subdivision is also easy to reach through several routes: through the Zabarte-Camarin Road and from the Quezon Memorial Circle through Commonwealth Avenue; from the North Diversion Road through the Malinta Exit and through Mindanao Ave. and Quirino Highway and dozens of other alternative routes connecting Quezon City and Caloocan City.

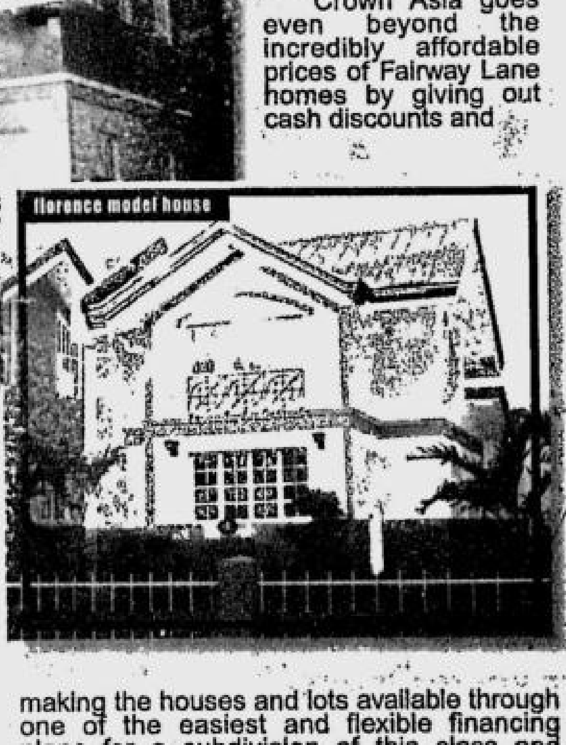
Public utility vehicles ply the immediate area providing access to the nearby SM Fairview, and the newly opened Robinson's Place Novaliches, and several public and private wet and dry markets for the shopping and marketing needs of residents.

Crown Asia goes even beyond the incredibly affordable prices of Fairway Lane homes by giving out cash discounts and making the houses and lots available through one of the easiest and flexible financing plans for a subdivision of this class and quality.

For more details on Fairway Lane and other Crown Asia subdivisions, call 72600-73 to 74.

It's a family day this Sunday at Fairway Lane. Bring the kids along for a day of fun and frolic with clowns, cotton candy and ice cream galore !!!

tuscany model house



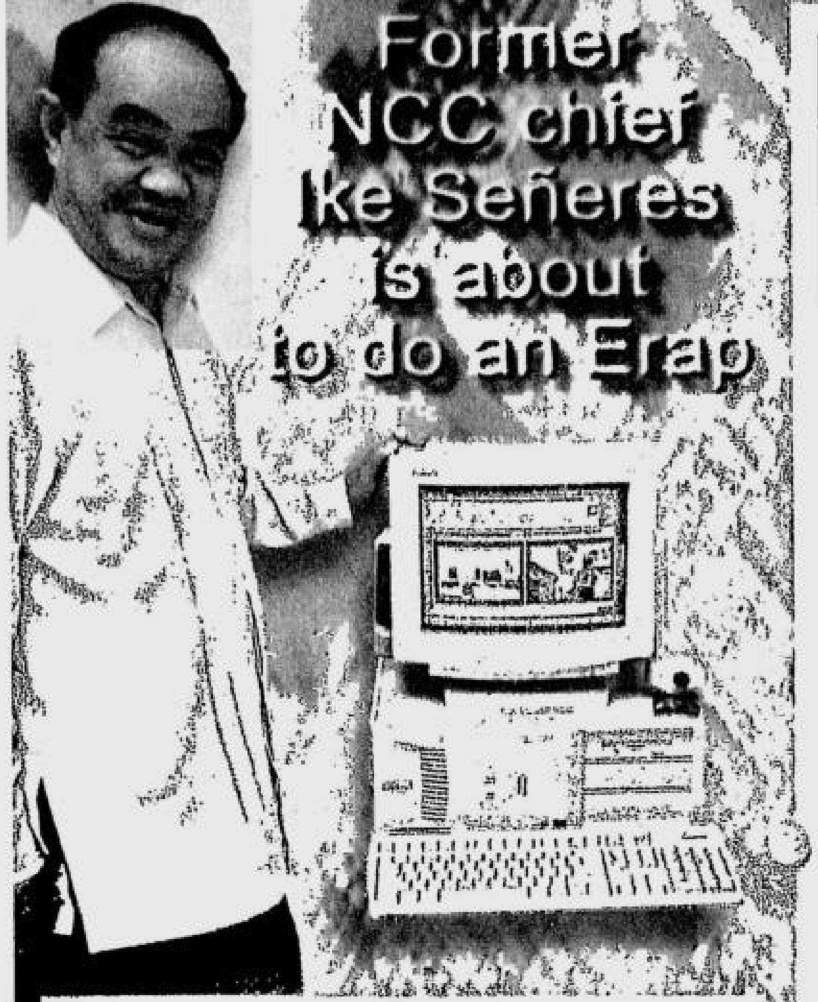
florence model house

ADVT.

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

Tale of ousted computer center chief to end soon



Former NCC chief Ike Señeres is about to do an Erap

BY ERWIN G. OLIVA

SCIENCE Secretary Estrella Alabastro last week said that legal questions over the appointment of the new National Computer Center (NCC) chief would be resolved this week.

Alabastro said that the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) legal department is currently looking into questions raised by Ramon Señeres, who was replaced as NCC director general after complaints and graft accusations from the NCC employees themselves were hurled at the embattled government official.

"I have talked to (CSC) Commissioner Karina David, who said that the matter was with the legal department. She said that the case would be resolved within this week," Alabastro told the INQUIRER.

However, in a letter addressed to the Department of Science and Technology, Señeres insisted that he has not resigned and so his post is not vacant. He also pointed out that as civil service career eligible, he could not be removed without cause.

"He also informed us that his term is not co-terminus with that of former President Estrada," Alabastro said.

Ousted President Joseph Estrada appointed Señeres as NCC chief on Aug. 28, 1998.

Documents show that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has consented to Señeres' secondment, or transfer of duty, from the agency to the NCC. A memorandum of agreement dated Sept. 6, 2000 indicated that a secondment agreement would last from September 1998 until June 2001.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER, however, reveal that the secondment agreement was signed by then Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon on Sept. 26, 2000, and former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora on Oct. 4, 2000. The secondment of Señeres became effective only on Oct. 4, 2000.

According to CSC rules, a seconded employee is not allowed to report to the receiving agency—in this case, the NCC—earlier than the date of signing of the MOA.

Señeres was foreign service officer class III before he was appointed as director of the NCC, according to the secondment agreement.

Meanwhile, Alabastro said that Delfin Sabido, director of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (Asti), has finally accepted the NCC position but would not report to the agency until matters with Señeres are resolved.

"I have already talked to him. *Buong-buo na ang loob niya* (He is now sure about his decision). He was apprehensive at first but now he has accepted the job," Alabastro added.

Alabastro acknowledged that Sabido would be holding the position of NCC director general and Asti executive director at the same time.

"We have sought legal opinion on that matter and we think there is no problem with him holding concurrent positions at the DOST," she said.

Asked what would happen to Señeres, Alabastro replied: "He could go back to the DFA if he wants."

In a separate interview, Señeres seemed not keen on going back to the DFA.

"There is an option to return but I have not thought about it," he told the INQUIRER.

Señeres admitted that he has seen Sabido's appointment letter as NCC chief, but indicated that he would only leave until he gets notice from Malacañang to vacate his post.

"I wrote Malacañang, the DOST and the CSC. I'm waiting for their response," he added.

Asked whether the copy of Sabido's appointment letter serves as an indication that he should already vacate the position, Señeres stressed that it is a "standard operating procedure" for the government to notify officials if they have been replaced.

"I'm a career service executive, which is short of a career executive service officer eligibility," Señeres maintained. As a career service executive, he said that he has security of tenure.

Señeres, however, indicated that he would respect the CSC once it comes out with a decision on questions he raised earlier on the appointment of Sabido.

Asked what he would do if the CSC decides in favor of Sabido, he replied: "I also would like to know where I would go."

The NCC is not unfamiliar to controversies. In 1999, also under the helm of Señeres, the NCC became the center of attention as the year 2000 and the threat of the millennium bug drew near. Last month, NCC employees picketed the NCC office, demanding that Señeres step down due to what they claim are corrupt practices being performed by the NCC chief.

In the past, NCC officials have also been rocked by controversies, leading to the termination or transfer of the NCC chiefs in the past.

Plug it in, Turn it on, Adding a file server is a Snap!

1 2 3

NO OS REQUIRED
•
NO CLIENT ACCESS LICENSE REQUIRED
•
UP TO 150 USERS
•
DISK MIRRORING
•
DISK STRIPPING
•
MULTI-PLATFORM SUPPORT

Workgroup Storage Server, Remote Office Server, Backup Server, Data Protection Device. No matter how you use it, Snap Server is the easiest way to add a reliable file server to your network. No other storage solution allows you to add so much storage so quickly at such a low cost, and supports as many network protocols right out of the box as Snap Server!

Snap Server 1000 15 GB
Snap Server 1000 30 GB
Snap Server 2000 60 GB
Snap Server 4100 120 GB
Snap Server 4100 240 GB

Quantum® Snap!™ server The Industry Standard

Authorized reseller:

COMPUTER CRAFT CORPORATION

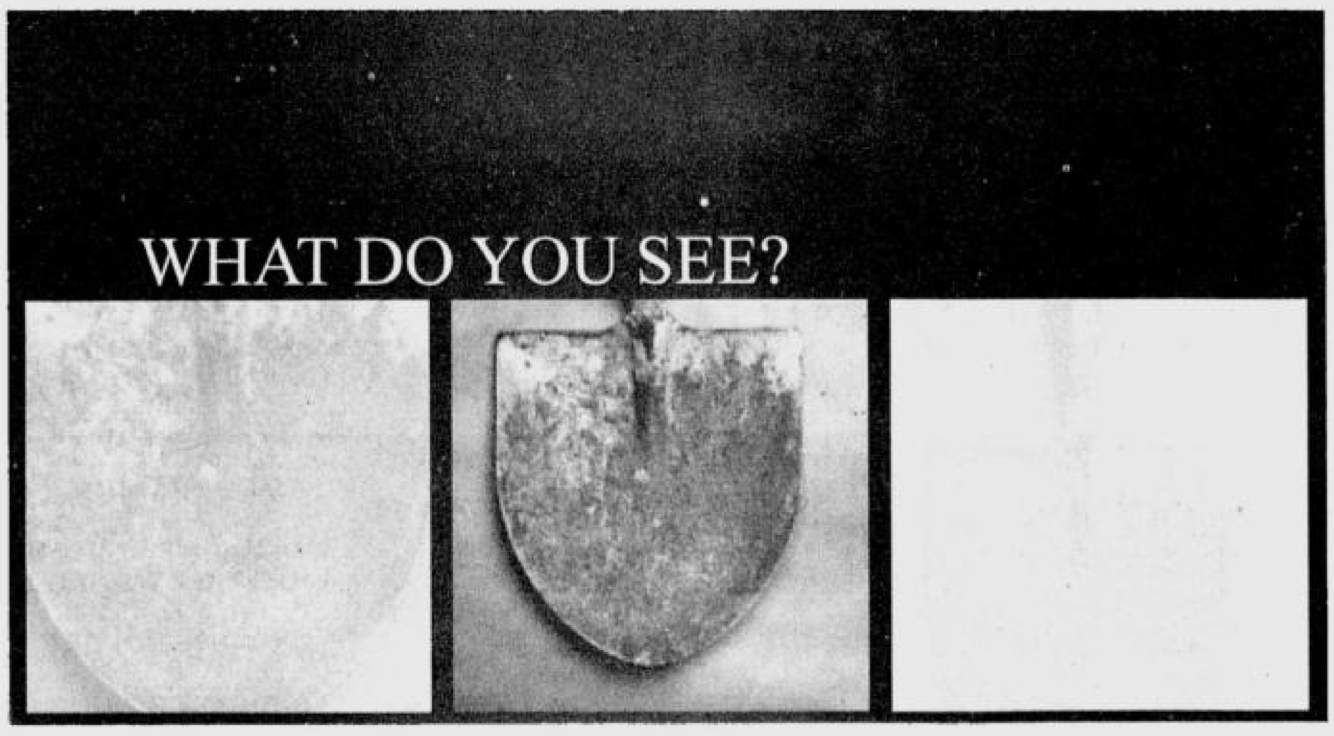
9631 Kamagong St., Brgy. San Antonio, Makati City
Telephone: 899-3959 • Fax: 890-9671
e-mail: sales@mybusinessbox.com

Get network access anytime, anywhere with Wireless LAN

Sofas, coffee tables, floors, other people's desks, human sculptures... by offering wireless connection to your network, Cisco Aironet gives users the flexibility to work anywhere in the office. It also offers network managers scalability, allowing new users to be added without having to rewire or shut down the LAN. Cisco Aironet offers full integration with Cisco wired networks and enterprise-level security featuring 128-bit encryption with dynamic WEP key distribution. What's more, it has the intelligence to automatically select the clearest frequency channel and utilises Cisco Discovery Protocol (CDP) to monitor LAN activity centrally. So, unplug with Cisco Aironet today and get network access anytime, anywhere (our sincere apologies to all those artist who see their work turned into workstations).

For a FREE "Wireless Made Simple" CD, or for more information, go to www.cisco.com/asiapac/aironet
(offer good while supplies last)

CISCO SYSTEMS
EMPOWERING THE INTERNET GENERATION℠



We see the potential to uncover new opportunities

- Where others see the ordinary, we see the opportunity. Where others see only data, we see information. Information that can be used to drive business, enable better, faster decisions and unlock previously unrealised potential.
- At Cognos we call this vision Enterprise Business Intelligence. Sure it can help unearth new business opportunities. But it will do much more than just that. It will change the way you look at customers, the way you work with suppliers and partners, and the way your entire traditional or e-business enterprise competes.
- That's why leading companies around the world such as Mercedes-Benz, NCR, American Express, Stella Artois, NASDAQ, BMW, ABN Amro and Sony have all made Cognos a part of their competitive advantage.

To find out how these and other Enterprise Business Intelligence customers see business with Cognos, please visit www.cognos.com/success.

SeeBusiness. SeeResults. SeeCognos.

nexus technologies, Inc.
G/F, Don Pablo Building, 114 Amorsolo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines
Phones: +63 2 759-6630, +63 2 867-1191
Fax: +63 2 759-6700
Email. sales@nexustech.com.ph

COGNOS®

SeeBusiness is a trademark of Cognos Incorporated. OCTOPUS/COG999/ECOM2

'No to B2B exchanges,' says supply chain guru

By JV Rufino

HONG KONG—A private supply chain network formed between a company's internal operating divisions, suppliers and customers is a better supply chain management solution than forming or participating in business-to-business (B2B) public exchanges, says the managing partner of Accenture's supply chain practice in Australia and New Zealand.

According to Dr. John Gottorna, public exchanges often encounter difficulties resolving governance issues such as who may participate in the exchange and under what terms. As a result, public B2B exchanges such as Transora.com often fail to fully deliver on their promise of lower sourcing and purchasing costs.

Instead, Gottorna recommended that companies concentrate on developing a private supply chain network among their internal divisions and key suppliers. He said that once a company has perfected the system internally and incrementally, the system could generate revenue by making it available to other parties.

In the Philippines, B2B exchanges are also being set up. One is CateringX, a vertical exchange for the food industry headed by Lucio Tan Jr. In a bid of confidence, San Miguel Corp. recently joined the exchange. Other notable B2B exchanges in the country are Bayantrade.com—a consortium of six big Filipino companies which banded together to form the exchange—PhilBX and SourcePilipinas.com.

Orica, an Australia-based company involved in the production of chemicals, explosives, fertilizers and consumer products has already developed an internal supply chain e-procurement project using the Ariba e-commerce platform together with Accenture. According to Andrew Shaw, senior manager at Accenture Global Business Solutions Practice, the project resulted in 30- to 50-percent savings in time and cost to source and purchase.

Gottorna, who is writing a book titled "Supply Chain Cybermastery," said that existing public exchanges would either "run out of money" or move away from focusing on cost savings achieved by simple aggregation and focus instead on providing more value-added services. The exchanges would become e-procurement services.

Gottorna said exchanges, however, following an application service provider business model, could provide a solution for small- to medium-size enterprises that otherwise could not afford their own supply chain management systems. Gottorna emphasized, though, that the exchange should be independent of the companies using it in order to avoid the governance issue. Government sponsorship of such an exchange was also possible.

Meanwhile, Shaw said that take-up of B2B e-commerce has not been as fast as anticipated due to the lack of a "burning" platform or killer application that was compelling enough. He also said that Accenture was not affected by the recent slowdowns in the Internet industry.

Accenture is the new name of Andersen Consulting. The $10-billion global management and technology consulting firm recently reinvented itself as "market maker, architect and builder of the New Economy."

WHAT IS?

B2B—Short for business-to-business, the exchange of products, services, or information between businesses rather than between businesses and consumers. It is generally defined as electronic commerce between businesses. The first e-commerce application to tickle the fancy of the New Economy was B2C or business-to-consumer e-commerce, also known as online retailing or electronic retailing (e-tailing). According to studies, the money volume of B2B exceeds that of e-tailing by 10 to 1. Over the next five years, B2B is expected to have a compound annual growth of 41 percent. The Gartner Group estimates B2B revenue worldwide to be $7.29 trillion by 2004. In early 2000, the volume of investment in B2B by venture capitalists was reported to be accelerating sharply although profitable B2B sites were not yet easy to find. In the Philippines, B2B exchanges are also being set up. Some examples include CateringX, Bayantrade.com, PhilBX and SourcePilipinas.com.

Zip 100MB
Zip 250MB
CD-RW
Pocket Zip 40MB
HipZip
zip 250
Important Information
1.44MB Floppy... why bother?!
Free limited edition watch while stocks last!

Why bother with 1.44MB floppies when you can have the warehouse storage capacity of Iomega® Zip® 100MB or 250MB disks. And now when you buy any of these Iomega external drives, you will get a FREE limited edition watch from us. This great offer is from now till March 31, 2001 or while stocks last so hurry!

Iomega Authorised Distributors:
• Lamco International Tel: (02) 634 7959 (Manila); (032) 345 3046/48/51 (Cebu); (082) 227 3660 (Davao)
• Millennium Computer Technology Corporation Tel: (02) 363 7777 (Manila); (032) 233 3813 (Cebu); (082) 244 0110 (Davao)

iomega

Copyright © 2001 Iomega Corporation. Iomega, the stylized "i" logo, Zip, Jaz, PocketZip, HipZip, FotoShow, QuikSync and LifeWorks are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Iomega Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries. Certain other product names, brand names and company names may be trademarks or designations of their respective owners.

Pacific Century Cyberworks of Hong Kong partners with RP consortium

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

PACIFIC Century Cyberworks (PCCW), a Hong Kong-based integrated communications company, has established a partnership with a local consortium, the Yuchengco Group of Companies, according to company executives.

PCCW is a company established by Richard Li in 1999. The company eventually merged with Cable & Wireless HKT in August last year.

In an interview, Alfonso Yuchengco III, executive vice chair and CEO and director of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), disclosed that the local consortium has entered into a "joint venture" with PCCW.

"Actually, they're a tenant in (RCBC Plaza)," remarked Yuchengco following last week's announcement of RCBC and Cisco Systems' $800,000 networking deal.

PCCW is currently setting up a data center at the RCBC Plaza, which would serve future tenants of the high-tech building, according to Reynaldo Evidente, president of iPeople Inc., a subsidiary that focuses on Internet business.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority recently identified the RCBC Plaza as an information technology zone. As an IT zone, locators in the building are granted incentives including income tax holidays.

"Under the partnership, PCCW was given the option to provide services to (RCBC Plaza) tenants. The data center is now being set up," remarked Lorna Evidente, senior vice president of RCBC's Information Technology Group.

"PCCW is expected to put up a server farm that would compliment its telecommunications and connectivity services at the RCBC Plaza. With PCCW, tenants need not worry on networking requirements," remarked Perry Uy, president of RCBC Realty Corp. "The building is also open to all telecommunications service providers."

PCCW's in-building networking system for the RCBC Plaza would be called "i.Tower," said Uy. The development of the building alone has cost the local consortium close to P10 billion.

RCBC Land and the Government Investment Corp. Real Estate, a company established by the government of Singapore, jointly own the RCBC Plaza.

Sun sets eyes on peer-to-peer computing, online education

BY JOEL D. PINAROC

SINGAPORE—Sun Microsystems Inc, a company known for its high-end servers and fierce anti-Microsoft stance, is taking a radical turn as it sets its research and development efforts on peer-to-peer (P2P) computing as the next major paradigm in Internet computing.

At a regional media symposium in Singapore, Sun executives disclosed company P2P efforts. This includes the setting up of a dedicated team headed by Sun Microsystems co-founder and Chief Scientist Bill Joy which will focus on developing P2P applications on Sun platforms.

Although other details of the efforts being done by Joy's team are still under wraps, aside from the team being billeted in an R&D center in Aspen, Colorado and Sun's acquisition of a company specializing in P2P, Sun officials said one of the potentials the company sees in P2P computing is in the delivery of online education.

"We see the possible impact of P2P on online learning. This paradigm will make Internet-aided learning centered around the students and not the classroom," said Marc Hamilton, director of technology at Sun.

P2P is a computing paradigm allowing for file sharing or music-swapping as in the case of Napster, between two or more "nodes" which have the P2P software.

This paradigm differs from a client/server setup since it allows the nodes, or PCs in most cases, to act as servers or clients, every time communication is initiated.

Hamilton said P2P is not really new, although it has been limited to the corporate space, until the celebrated Napster case which catapulted P2P as a legitimate, albeit notorious, buzz word in Internet computing.

"We see the potential of P2P specifically in the way online education will be delivered to students in an academic setup," Hamilton said.

The Sun executive added that a P2P-enabled online education delivery system will theoretically allow for more interaction between administrator and user, or in a school setup, between the professor and student.

Since P2P allows files or information exchange to occur between two or more nodes, there will no longer be a need for a server to route and reroute the information exchange, simplifying the administrative end of the communication.

Interestingly, Hamilton also said technology may be the least of the worries of schools wanting to use the Internet to deliver online education, as he noted that some tech schools in Singapore and the United States are now currently pilot-testing P2P-enabled delivery of online education.

"P2P is just one of the technologies that schools can use for online learning. What we see as bigger concern for schools is the online education standard which could be used and the bandwidth requirement to delivering multimedia content over the Net," Hamilton said.

He added that with the abundance of information over the Internet, P2P could come in the form of delivery of content to as many recipients as possible.

On the corporate front, meanwhile, P2P computing is also expected to capture the attention of more companies this year, according to research firm International Data Corp. (IDC). IDC said P2P holds promise as a relatively cheaper alternative to current client/server setups popularly used by corporate organizations.

Marcos urges gov't not to let politics affect IT

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

MARCOS

LAOAG, Ilocos Norte—The government should accelerate information and communications technology (ICT) development in the countryside and should no longer allow politics to influence the choice of ICT growth centers in the Philippines.

This is according to Imee Romualdez Marcos, daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, and now a congresswoman representing the Marcos bailiwick of Ilocos Norte.

"It's clear that IT (information technology) and telecommunications development in the country has not evolved in a generalized, broad-based manner. The reality is that IT is being spearheaded by growth niches such as Bangalore in India, for example. I think that's not just the case in the developing world but also in the United States."

"Particularly in the Philippines, we have to choose the areas of growth. But choosing the growth points unfortunately becomes a politicized affair—though of course we know that Ilocos Norte has to compete (with other areas)," Marcos said in an interview.

Marcos, who was the guest speaker at a convergence seminar held by Siemens Inc. at the Fort Ilocandia hotel in Laoag, also said in her speech that she and her brother, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos are both IT enthusiasts and are doing their best to promote ICT development in their province.

Marcos said that she welcomes the announcement of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that her administration would prioritize ICT development. Ms Macapagal had earlier outlined a three-point ICT plan.

MARCOS/ p.G4

Office PC
Cyrix MII-333
PC Partner mvp4
w/ video & snd
64 mb PC133
14" SVGA monitor
52x CD-Rom
10g HDD
Diamond AVR
1.44 FDD
A4 Tech mouse w/ pad
Multimedia Spkr
AT Case w/ KB
Cover
Php.18,300 ONLY!!!

AMD K62-500
AMD K62-500
Tomato 530BS
w/ video & snd
64 mb PC133
14" SVGA monitor
52x CD-Rom
10g HDD
Diamond AVR
1.44 FDD
A4 Tech mouse w/ pad
Multimedia Spkr
AT Case w/ KB
Cover
Php.18,900 ONLY!!!

Duron 700
Duron 700
MSI K7T Pro w/snd
64 mb PC133
14" SVGA monitor
52x CD-Rom
10g HDD
Diamond AVR
1.44 FDD
A4 Tech mouse w/ pad
Multimedia Spkr
ATX Casing w/ KB
S3 trio 8MB
Cover
Php.23,600 ONLY!!!

Intel P3 667
Intel P3 667
HIS 693 w/snd
64 mb PC133
DTS 15" monitor
52x CD-Rom
Seagate 20g HDD
Diamond AVR
1.44 FDD
A4 Tech mouse w/ pad
Multimedia Spkr
AT Case w/ KB
S3 Trio 8MB
Cover
Php.25,400 ONLY!!!

* Prices accurate as of March 16, 2000 Subject to change w/o prior notice

GILMORE branch:
Unit 23-A, Ground/F
Computer Graphics Bldg.
Gilmore cor. Aurora Blvd.
Quezon City, MM
725-4383 / 725-4385 / 725-4387

PC EXPRESS
COMPUTER WAREHOUSE
www.pcx.com.ph

SHAW branch:
Second/F
431 Shaw Blvd. cor. Ideal St.
Mandaluyong, MM
726-0682 / 726-0698 / 726-0272
726-0240 / 726-0913 / 726-1123

DotPH CEO answers critics on use of 'ph' domain as 'phone' instead of 'Philippines'

BY JOEY G. ALARILLA

REACTING to accusations hurled by some members of the local online community, the administrator of the Philippine country-code top-level domain has defended his firm's strategy of marketing .PH as a global domain for phone companies.

"The .PH domain has actually been divided into two product lines: COM.PH, NET.PH, and ORG.PH are the Philippine domains. *.PH is the PHone Domain. So when people see INQUIRER.COM.PH, they'll think—that's a Philippine company. When they see PACIFIC.NET.PH, they'll think—that's a Philippine ISP. And when they see JOEY.ALARILLA.PH, they'll think—that's a PHONE domain. What exactly is a PHone domain, you say? Well, we'll have to wait for the product rollout to answer that! But the website should give you some clues," DotPH Inc. chief executive officer Joel Disini told the INQUIRER via e-mail.

In an earlier report, Jim Ayson, moderator of the Philippine Cyberspace Review (PH-Cyberview) online discussion group, opposed the DotPHone strategy. The DotPHone issue was just one of the many complaints that Filipino Netizens raised in the PH-Cyberview mailing list.

"Personally, I prefer people to think of 'Philippines' rather than 'Phones' when they see .PH. I think turning our domain into a commercial top-level domain will make us the laughingstock in the region and we can't be considered a serious player because of that. And the Net community and the Philippine government should have a say about how .PH is used, not just leave it to the arbitrary decisions of a private corporation," Ayson had said.

Disini said that he was a "bit disappointed" with Ayson's reaction.

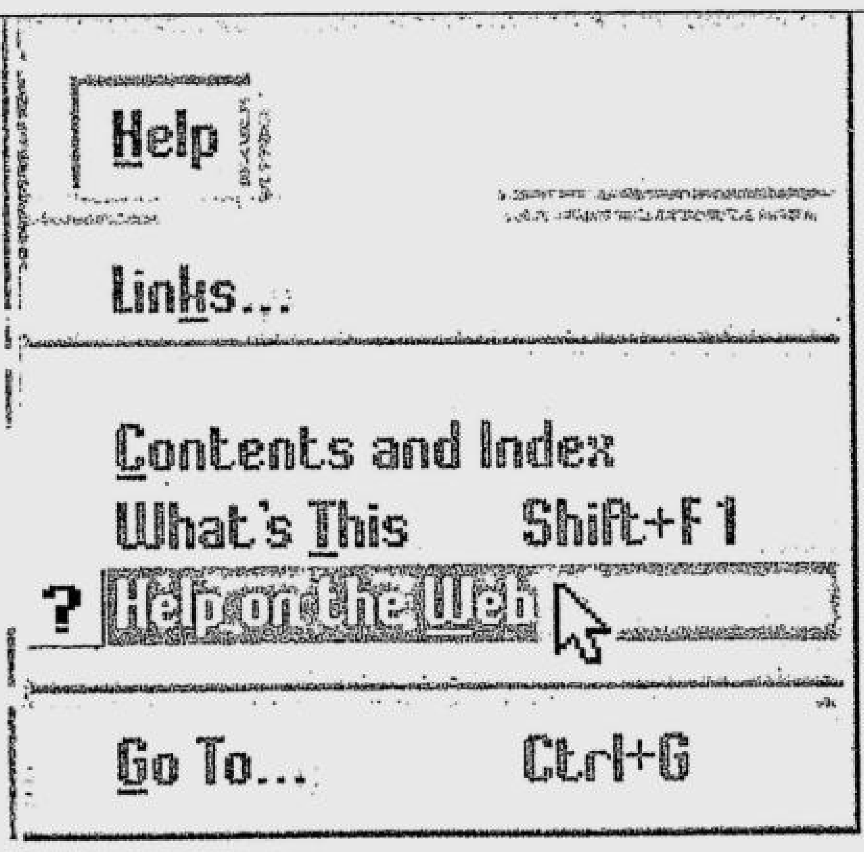
"Jim is not familiar at all with all the great things we're doing here at DotPH. He hasn't talked to the telcos, he hasn't talked to the domain industry, and he hasn't talked to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). Yet there is this knee-jerk reaction that we might become the 'laughingstock of the region,'" Disini said.

Ayson and Disini, as well as other Netizens from both camps, have been involved in a series of exchanges in the PH-Cyberview list following the INQUIRER report. While the discussion was sometimes heated, both Ayson and Disini have asked that the debate stick to the issues rather than engaging in personal attacks.

The issue has been elevated to the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC) Legal Cluster Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, which held another meeting on Friday about the issue.

In his e-mail, Disini said that critics should give DotPH the chance to prove that it can deliver on its promise of world-class, locally developed technology.

"I'm not one to toot my horn, but I worked in Silicon Valley for five years, and the work I did won Editor's Choice awards from MacUser Magazine. And prior to that, I went to a university that has some pretty bright people—Caltech. Caltech has the single largest ratio of Nobel laureates to faculty. So I've done battle with some of the best minds in the industry, and I am appalled by the knee-jerk reaction in this country that the Filipino just isn't good enough, or just isn't bright enough to produce something truly innovative. The work we are doing is very good. In fact, we're currently filing patents worldwide for the things we've come up with. We are working with 'Phone' technologies that have yet to be released in the market. You've seen the posts on PH-Cyberview about the sort of job offers we've been making. This is true. We've been looking for the best minds this country has to offer, and we're willing to pay top dollar for it! And if some minds think we can't do it—then I'd prefer that they at least give us the chance to prove them wrong," Disini said.



The men who train the top
I.T. specialists in the U.S.A.
are now here to train you.

So, when are you available?

They're gathering at a place called CyberStateU.com Philippines.

An affiliate of CyberStateU.com and the Computer Telephony Institute in the U.S.A., CyberStateU.com Philippines is bringing the top educators of the world's leading cutting-edge technologies – Microsoft, Cisco, Computer Telephony, CompTIA, Novell, and many more – to the country... via the web. That means, you can learn from the best in the world, right in the comforts of your own home or office.

Because learning at CyberStateU.com is entirely web-based, you can customize your studying to your own schedule, location and pace – freeing you from the pressure and rigidity of a fixed classroom setting. You learn better and absorb more.

So, if you're interested in taking a couple of I.T. courses, don't you think you'd be better off if you learned from the same guys who train the best in the world?

CyberStateU.com
PHILIPPINES
Lifted via the Web

G/F Eastwood City Information Center, E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City
Information: 841-8466 • Fax: 636-6199 • e-mail address: info@cyberstateu.com.ph.

TRAINING PROGRAMS: **Microsoft** MCSE/MCP + Internet **CISCO** CCNA **Computer Telephony Institute** Computer Telephony Engineer (CTE)
CompTIA A+ Certification **Novell** CNE NetWare 5/CNE IntranetWare 4.11/CNA NetWare 5/CNA IntranetWare 4.11/NetWare 4.11 to 5 Update
Coming soon: Certification courses for JAVA, Oracle, WINDOWS 2000 and Linux Professional Institute General Linux Level 1

www.cyberstateu.com.ph

RP engineering school deploys gigabit Ethernet

By Gerry A. Plaza

HIGH-SPEED network connections, particularly gigabit Ethernet technology, were thought to only cater to business-bred applications.

On Friday, the Mapua Institute of Technology became the first educational institution to implement gigabit Ethernet technology for its campus backbone as part of its partnership with networking solutions provider Cisco Systems.

Using the technology, Mapua's network would thus be capable of transferring gigabits (1,000 megabits per second) of data per second through its already working Ethernet environment. According to Mapua officials, the implementation of the gigabit Ethernet network allows the engineering school to speed up its network drastically without having to "reinvent the wheel."

"The technology allows our network to scale to present demands," Reynaldo Vea, Mapua president and chief executive officer said in a press conference at the RCBC Plaza on Friday. "We need not shift to sophisticated, compromising technology just to accommodate bandwidth-hungry software applications in our internal network."

Mapua's gigabit Ethernet backbone connects school offices, faculty departments and computer laboratories to the main network control center.

The interconnection is primarily applied through inexpensive copper cabling and requires no need to change its base media access control or packet format, being essentially Ethernet.

Gigabit Ethernet sits on top of the Ethernet protocol, but increases existing Fast Ethernet connection speeds tenfold. At 1,000 Mbps while leveraging on Ethernet, network users could leverage on existing knowledge bases to manage and maintain the high-speed network.

Ethernet, so far, has been the most used networking protocol with the highest number of installed ports worldwide. It provides a simple, cost-effective option for backbone and server connectivity.

Christopher dela Rosa, Mapua IT director, said the installation of the Gigabit Ethernet network is aimed at improving student performance and school operations. "With this initiative, we are also propelling Mapua's thrust of raising the competency level of the whole school," De la Rosa said.

Mapua is set to integrate Cisco Catalyst switches, routers and firewall system into its gigabit Ethernet network.

WHAT IS?

Gigabit Ethernet—A copper-based Ethernet technology with transmission speeds reaching 1 gigabyte per second. It is used primarily for backbones to which several Ethernet-based clients access network resources. Ethernet is the most widely used and popular local area network access method.

Microsoft® Solutions! Expo2000

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., March 22, 2001
Ateneo Professional Schools, Rockwell Center

A Gathering of Microsoft Solutions For Every Business Need

For your business to be fast, nimble, and responsive to opportunities, market changes and customer needs, you will need software solutions that are powerful, reliable and secure.

At the Microsoft Solutions Expo, we will showcase multiple business solutions from various independent software vendors across several industries. Solutions that can help you turn the accelerating pace of change into a competitive advantage. Solutions that can help you beat the competition.

Come to the Microsoft Solutions Expo and see what our solutions can do for your business.

Major Sponsors:

APC Legendary Reliability
EPSON
GREAT PLAINS
hp invent

Exhibitors

ABM Computech Enterprises, Inc. • Asian Business Solutions, Inc. eBworx • Getronics Philippines, Inc. • IFCA Consulting Phils., Inc. IM2 Corp. • Infoserve International, Inc. • Jupiter Systems, Inc. • Leverage Systems Technologies, Inc. • Mannasoft Technology Corp. • Mediasoft Technologies Corp. • Navigator Systems, Inc. • Nexus Technologies, Inc. Pericom Imaging Phils., Inc. • Radix Systems Services Corp. • Software Ventures International • Solutions 77, Inc. • Syspro Phils, Inc. Systems Sciences Consult, Inc. • Teligent Systems, Inc.

Register today! Fill out and fax to **886-5657**

Name: ____________________
Position: ____________________
Company: ____________________
Company address: ____________________
____
Phone No.: __________ Fax __________
E-mail ____________________

Only pre-registered participants will be admitted to this event.
Register online at **www.microsoft.com/*philippines***, or call Microsoft Support Services at **886-5658** for more information. *(Corporate attendees only. Admission is free.)*

Free shuttle buses provided by Microsoft will be at the Gold Crest Parking Area (near Park Square 2 and Abenson's) at 7:00, 7:45, & 8:30 a.m., and 12:00, 12:45, & 1:30 in the afternoon. The vicinity map is shown at www.microsoft.com/philippines.

Solutions Expo Schedule

7:30 Registration
9:00 Ribbon Cutting
9:30 Morning Break

Time	Track 1 G/F Amphitheater	Track 2 4/F Veritas Amphitheater	Track 3 4/F Justitia Moot Court
10:00 - 10:30	HP Session	Great Plains Session	APC Session
10:45 - 11:15	Enterprise Convergence at e-Business	Workflow, Imaging Solution for Exchange 2000	*EPSON Session*
	ABM Computech	*Pericom Imaging Phils., Inc.*	
11:30 - 12:00	Rational Software – Engineering Best Practices Using the Rational Unified Process	Chaos Has Left the Building: The Filenet Solution	The Digital Restaurant: Improving Service, Cutting Cost, and Making Profits
	Jupiter Systems, Inc.	*Asian Business Solutions, Inc.*	*Systems Sciences Consult, Inc.*
12:00 - 1:30		Lunch Break	
1:30 - 2:00	Impact Encore 5.0: Next Generation Enterprise	Windows Based E-nterprise Interaction/ CTI Solution	Planning, Budgeting and Analysis in the Digital Economy
	Syspro Philippines, Inc.	*Solutions 77, Inc.*	*IM2 Corporation*
2:15 - 2:45	Insurance Solution in the 21st Century	TeleVantage Software PBX + Parity Software (IVR) The Intelligent Phone System	Cognos Enterprise Business Intelligence-Enterprise Strategies for the Global Marketplace
	Software Ventures Int'l	*Mediasoft Technologies Corp.*	*Nexus Technologies, Inc.*
3:00 - 3:30	Infoserve: Enabling e-Business	Fully Integrated Solutions: TAMS, HRIS and Payroll Solutions	Leverage Information and Control in Process Mfg.
	Infoserve Int'l, Inc.	*Navigator Systems, Inc.*	*IM2 Corporation*
3:30 - 4:00		Afternoon Break	
4:00 - 4:30	Empowering Sales, Marketing and Support: Using Goldmine FrontOffice and SQL	Automotive Dealer Management Solutions	
	Mannasoft Technology Corp.	*Radix System Services Corp.*	
4:45 - 5:15	Globalfs - A New Generation Retail Banking Platform	Procure Flow: Internal Requisition	
	Getronics Philippines, Inc.	*Leverage Systems Technologies, Inc.*	

Have some Back-to-School fun!

Microsoft TechNet Fair

Check out the booths at the TechNet fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sybase e-business solution beta now out

SYBASE Inc. has announced the availability of the beta version of the Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE), a next-generation version of Sybase's flagship Relational Database Management System (RDMS).

The new version delivers new productivity, management and security features for various enterprises' expanding e-Business needs. It supports Internet security and directory services, Unicode support and management of unstructured data designed to ensure private data communications and storage.

It also enhances application developer's productivity by supporting technologies needed for rapid building and deploying e-Business applications and meets the needs of online and traditional businesses. These features of the beta version of Sybase ASE reduce downtime for critical Internet and online transaction processing in addition to making ASE easier to use for database administrators.

The new e-Business productivity enhancements will allow developers to quickly integrate XML-based applications with the database and allow Java developers to quickly create business rules and execute Enterprise Java Bean components in the database. It also has high availability features along with superior performance help.

Marcos urges gov't not to let politics affect IT

(From page G3)

"I was delighted to hear our new president say that she would concentrate on IT and telecommunications in the countryside," Marcos also said.

Earlier in her speech, however, she noted that it has certainly become "politically correct and fashionable to give a nod to IT or ICT development," although what is needed are actual initiatives in improving the ICT infrastructure in the countryside.

Marcos said that Ilocos Norte offers advantages that would warrant the development of the province as an ICT growth center.

First, she cited the province's location, noting that Ilocos Norte is nearer to Taiwan and China than it is to Manila, which makes it an ideal location for the export of electronic goods and other ICT products.

Second, she said that the population of Ilocos Norte is always ready to migrate, thus answering the need for skilled ICT manpower that is willing to relocate to other countries.

Marcos also noted the "renowned diligence and industriousness" of the Ilocano and the province's need to invest in an alternative industry, as traditional sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing remain underdeveloped.

She, however, admitted that the province is "better known for its exports in politics than in IT."

Asked why the national government has overlooked or neglected the province when it is supposed to have ICT advantages, Marcos replied that, "We just seem to be so far away. And yet, on the other hand, the thing is that with IT, distance is not an issue. Strangely, it (IT and telecommunications development) seems to have bypassed Ilocos Norte. Unfortunately, there seems to be huge emphasis on areas near Metro Manila or Metro Cebu. It's quite curious."

Marcos, however, added that the lack of prioritization by the national government is apparent in other provinces as well.

"We can criticize the national government's IT policy by saying that it has neglected Ilocos Norte. The truth of the matter, however, is that IT and telecoms have been neglected nationwide," she said.

She, however, admitted that Ilocos Norte has disadvantages as an ICT growth center, particularly in providing the need for cheap, reliable power.

Marcos said that she would continue to push for ICT initiatives, saying that she is also drafting a convergence bill and calling for the amendment of the E-Commerce Act of 2000.

"It's (the E-commerce Act) not a brilliant piece of work, is it? With all due respect to the authors," she said.

Asked if she would push for the amendment of the E-Commerce Act, Marcos replied: "Actually, I'm not as concerned with the E-Commerce Law as a single piece of legislation but how it is tied in with convergence legislation."

It remains to be seen how active the Marcoses will be in IT legislation, although both Imee and brother Bongbong are seeking reelection in the coming May elections.

Budget cuts may affect science agency programs

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

ALABASTRO

NEWLY appointed Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro indicated that the government has allocated a total of P2.385 billion for the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

However, the 2001 budget, she said, is a "reenactment" of the year 2000 budget, which totaled P2.7 billion. Reenactment of budget means that the government has given the agency the same budget as last year, less capital expenditures.

"So if the agency is anticipating to implement new programs, we don't have much elbow room. We would continue implementing existing programs or abort them," she said.

Alabastro acknowledged that other agencies in government are also "in a tight fix" as the government goes through more belt-tightening.

The DOST's proposed budget for 2001 was P5.7 billion, according to Alabastro.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed Alabastro last week, ending the crisis of leadership at the agency.

"She called me up last Saturday. She was very candid and said (DOST) should push for ICT (information and communications technology). She said that the DOST will be working closely with the Department of Trade and Industry," Alabastro said.

She added that she would look into the current programs of the agency and realign them, if necessary, according to the directives given by the President.

Alabastro is the former undersecretary for research and development of the DOST and a professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines College of Economics and the university's Technology Management Center. She was the director of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD) from 1991 to 1995. The PCIERD is an agency under the DOST.

Cisco layoffs won't affect RP operations, say executives

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

CISCO Systems Philippines, a local subsidiary of Cisco Systems, would be spared from the planned job cuts announced last week, according to company executives.

Cisco indicated it would lay off between 3,000 and 5,000 employees holding full-time positions as a result of concerns in the US economic slowdown and lower capital spending of customers worldwide.

In an interview, Noel Rivera, country manager of Cisco Philippines, assured that the local team would remain intact.

"The number of people is practically the same. We're fortunately right-sized," Rivera told the INQUIRER.

The executive, however, admitted that there is an evident slowdown in some sectors particularly in manufacturing, which includes local customers in the semiconductor business.

CISCO/p.G6

ATTACH. CLICK. STORE.
(NEED I SAY MORE?)

MaxAttach: Powerful file server. Up to 320GB of net attached storage. MaxAttach and relax. Maxtor's MaxAttach family of Network Attached Storage appliances is the easiest way to add high capacity, high availability, high value storage to your network. How easy is it? To install and configure MaxAttach, you simply attach it, plug it in, and click four times. All while your network is up and running.

MaxAttach is available in desktop and 1U rackmount models with capacities from 80 to 320GB. It works with Windows,* Unix* or Linux* networks. It's secure. And it comes with Maxtor's No Quibble Service* and support. Current MaxAttach applications include remote office and workgroup file serving, back-end storage and data back-up.

MaxAttach network storage

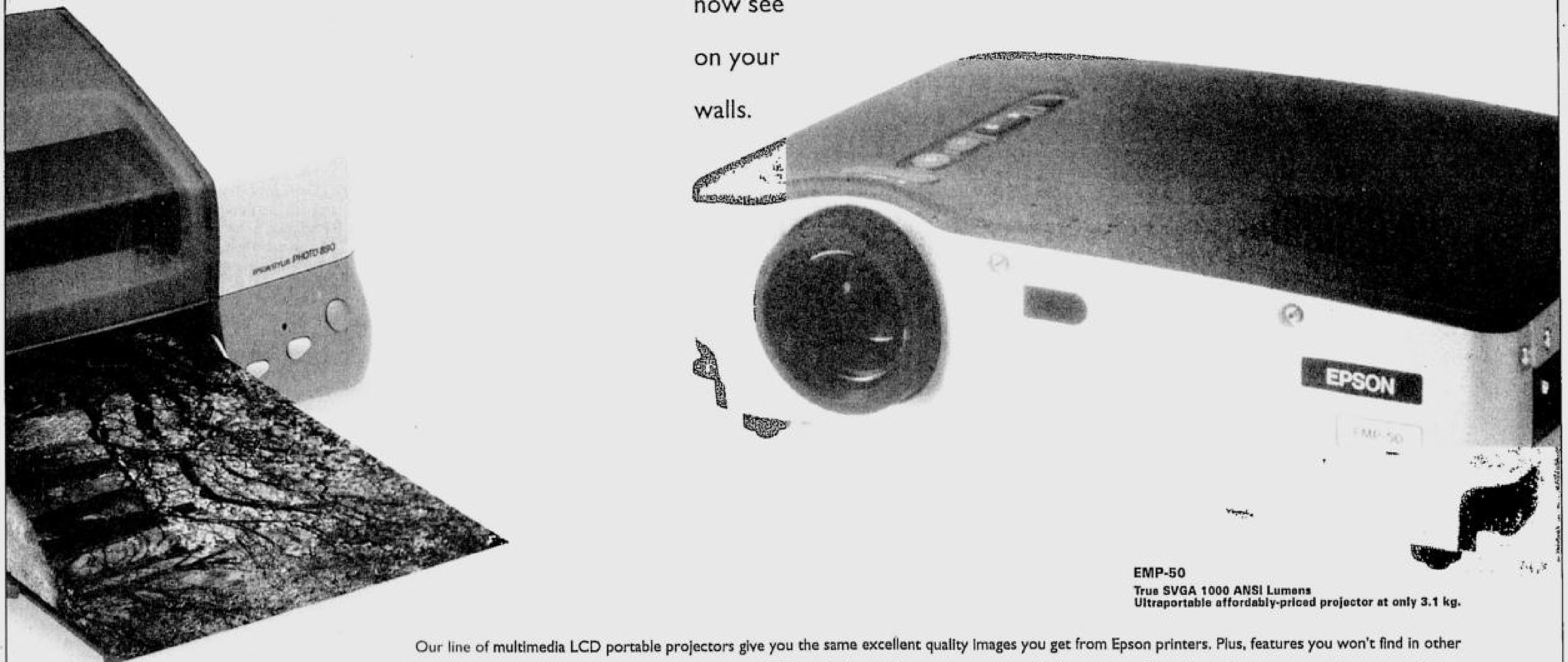
To learn more, get attached to Maxtor. For MaxAttach details and resellers, mailto: maxattach@glee.com.ph. Or call our NAS hotline: 744-1378. And we'll show you why it's time to get MaxAttached.

Philippine Distributor
Pivotal
A division of GLEE ELECTRONICS INC.

www.maxtor.com
Maxtor

The sharp
printouts
you got
from our
printers

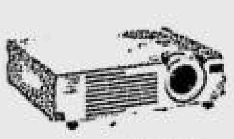
you can
now see
on your
walls.

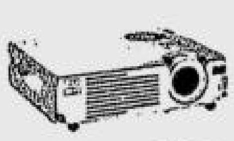


EMP-50
True SVGA 1000 ANSI Lumens
Ultraportable affordably-priced projector at only 3.1 kg.

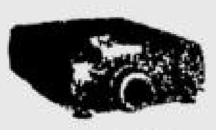
Our line of multimedia LCD portable projectors give you the same excellent quality images you get from Epson printers. Plus, features you won't find in other projectors. Like our patented Panel-On-Prism technology (POP) technology that guarantees you'll always get crisp, clear images, even after years of use. Or, our revolutionary DAR (Digital Active Resizing) technology which supports a wide array of resolutions making our projectors more compatible and versatile than others. Or, the built-in Effect Function, a standard feature on all our projectors. It allows you to select the cursor, highlighter, or underlining features to emphasize the important points in your presentation. Epson Multimedia LCD projectors not only give you better presentations, they set the standard.

EPSON
THE POWER TO CREATE

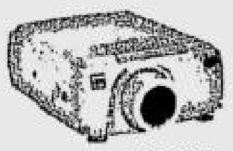

EMP-703
True XGA 1000 ANSI Lumens
Ultraportable value projector
at only 2.6 kg.


EMP-715
True XGA 1200 ANSI Lumens
Revolutionary EasyMP Technology
for PC-less presentations. Only 2.7 kg.

EMP-5350
True SVGA 1600 ANSI Lumens
High-Brightness value
desktop projector at only 6.2 kg.


EMP-7250
True XGA 1300 ANSI Lumens
High Brightness value
desktop projector at only 6.2 kg.

EMP-5600
True SVGA 2200 ANSI Lumens
Ultra Bright desktop
projector at only 6.8 kg.


EMP-8100
True XGA 3200 ANSI Lumens
Ultra-Bright installation
projector at only 8.3 kg.

EMP-8150
True XGA 3200 ANSI Lumens
The World's first network projector
using EasyMP.net. Only 9.1 kg.

EMP-9100
True SXGA 2400 ANSI Lumens
Ultra Bright installation projector
for real CAD users. Only 8.3 kg.

Army to wage 'virtual battle' by placing info on the Web

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—The Philippine Army has apparently come to realize the importance of information technology in order to win the hearts and minds of the people.

Aside from the now existing Armed Forces of the Philippines website, the military will launch a website for each of the lower units deployed in the battlefronts.

Col. Jack Cordero Jr., 203rd Infantry Brigade commander, disclosed that the Army is now in the thick of conducting skills training for military techies who will construct webpages for the units to which they belong.

Cordero said the webpages of the military units will contain events, achievements, projects and whatever information they believe are useful to enhance community relations.

He said through the websites, the military activities and programs could be easily accessed through the Internet by anybody who has the means to do so.

Cordero believes that the construction of webpages could help in the battle to win the hearts and minds of and generate support from the people.

He said the military leadership constantly monitors the website of the National Democratic Front in the Internet where policies, assessments and statements are posted.

The brigade commander here said they are studying what the rebel movement is up to, based on the information posted in the Internet.

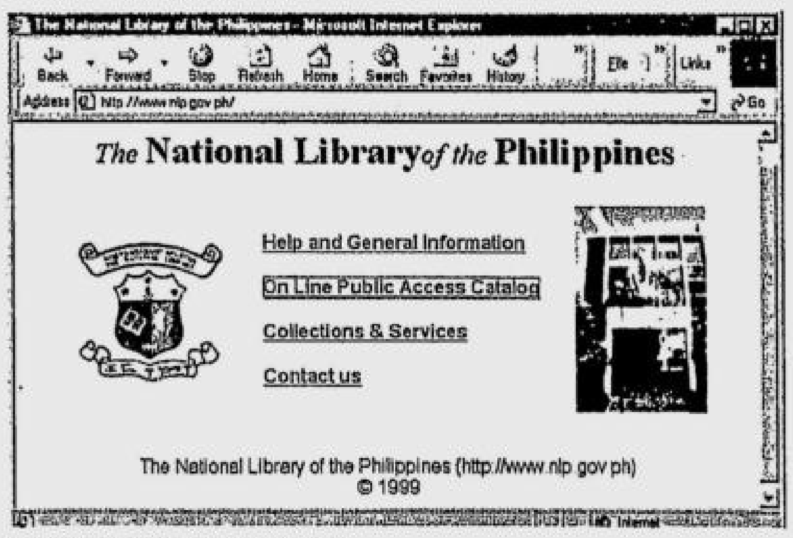
But the maintenance of a website for the Armed Forces, according to former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, has its use also to make the administrative and operations functions of the defense department transparent.

During his recent visit here, Mercado said he had proposed that the Armed Forces website be used to post the projects up for bidding in order to eliminate graft and corruption.

He said the hullabaloo that arose from former Navy Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong's exposé of the alleged anomalies in the purchase of Kevlar helmets was a result of nontransparency in the bidding process.

Mercado said the Kevlar helmets' bidding process was not posted in the website of the Armed Forces because, he said, the new policies and processes, which he was introducing—including the posting of projects in the Internet, had not yet been instituted.

He said until now his proposal has not been implemented.


The National Library of the Philippines - Microsoft Internet Explorer
Address http://www.nlp.gov.ph/

The National Library of the Philippines

Help and General Information
On Line Public Access Catalog
Collections & Services
Contact us

The National Library of the Philippines (http://www.nlp.gov.ph)
© 1999

THE NATIONAL Library website

National Library titles now online

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

SEARCHING for a book or publication in the National Library could now be as easy as typing in a few keywords and clicking on the mouse.

This has been made possible with the launch of the National Library's website at www.nlp.gov.ph which would allow students, researchers and anybody with Internet access to search the library's Online Public Access Catalog for a certain publication.

"The National Library Catalog and the collection of some of our public libraries as well are available via the Internet where the user can access our collections no matter where they may be," said Adoracion Mendoza, director of the National Library.

Mendoza said the online database was an upgrade of the current text-based system of the main library in Manila and 65 public libraries nationwide into a Web-based library application system for the integrated Philippine Library Information Network or Philin.

Mendoza said 205 public libraries in the provincial, city and municipal level have also been linked as part of a completed library application project through the Public Library Information Network (Publin) project.

"In the immediate future, more public libraries will also be part of the network toward the completion of the total Library Automation Program," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the National Library's next important project is digitizing its collection to transform the library into an electronic or virtual library which shall allow users to access library resources in different formats like full text, digital images and other facsimile editions.

The National Library also opened to the public yesterday an air-conditioned Internet center on the ground floor where library users can avail of low rates. The center is equipped with 20 new Pentium computers.

Developed by the Singapore-based Library Corp., the National Library website has an easy-to-use interface with text links to general information about the National Library, its collections and services and the Online Public Access Catalog (Opac).

When the user clicks on the Opac link, a search box appears where keywords may be entered. The system allows searches by author, title and subject. Searches can also be limited to a certain publication date, language, format and place of publication.

A single search, for "Jose Rizal" for example, took only 10 to 15 seconds to complete. The search results showed 508 items than contain the keywords, but the page can only show 10 to 100 items at a time. The first entry was "A Complete English Version of Noli Me Tangere from Spanish of Jose Rizal."

Aside from the title, the search results also showed the date of publication, its category, its catalogue number and availability in a certain location. When a user clicks on the title, detailed information is provided in a new window showing all the subjects where the title falls under and all the libraries where the title is available.

Mendoza said the National Library is also building up its bibliographic databases by cataloguing data for Filipiniana, or books published in the country, while indexes to articles in Philippine periodicals have been converted into the new software.

She said the system also facilitates the check-in and check-out library materials by swiping them through a barcode machine reader, thus saving time and effort on the part of the user.

Cisco . . .

(From page G5)

"But a slowdown in that sector has been compensated by growth in other sectors," Rivera added.

Gary Jackson, vice president of Asia operations, for his part, said that the impact of the downsizing of operations is a lot less in Asia.

"Seventy percent of our employees are based in the US," he said during a local briefing. He said that Asia still represents a significant piece of Cisco's global business.

Cisco Philippines recently won the deal to provide the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) the latest networking equipment for its main business center in Makati City. RCBC is a company owned by the local consortium Yuchengco Group of Companies.

RCBC is spending $800,000 to wire the RCBC Plaza, the newest high-tech building that houses the bank's main business operations, RCBC executives said.

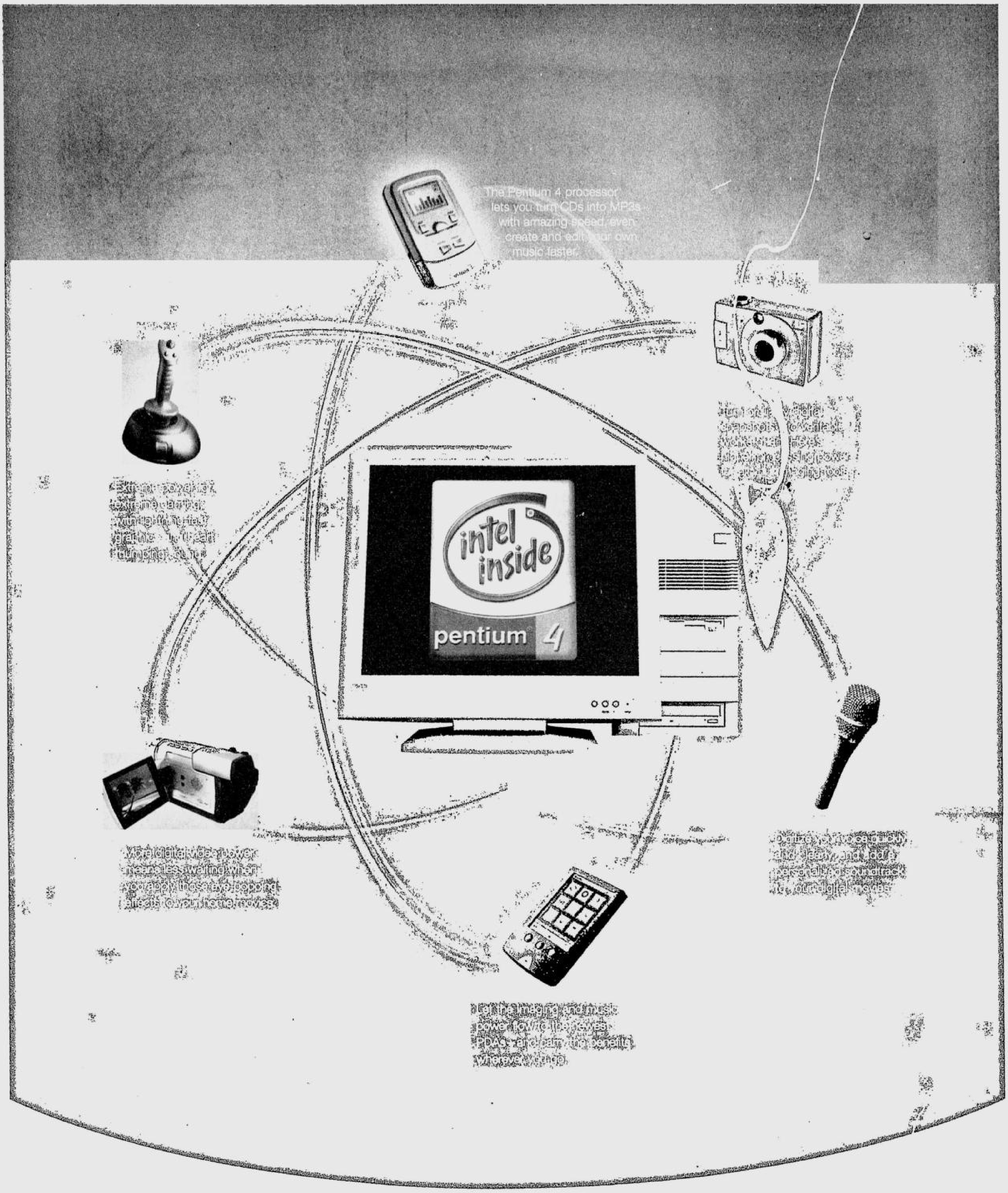
How do you fit two giants in one page?

MA
BELONG

Most of us have trouble fitting into our pants, what more bringing two media giants into one site? But with Inq7.net, the country's most awarded network and the nation's leading newspaper come together to create the biggest online source of Philippine news and information. Get up-to-the-minute news updates, live streaming video/audio of ongoing news events plus the insights and integrity you've come to expect from GMA and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Sounds amazing? Log on to **www.inq7.net.**

PH
IN
BALANC

inq7.net
your home, your newwws.


The Pentium 4 processor lets you turn CDs into MP3s with amazing speed, even create and edit your own music faster.
intel inside
pentium 4
More digital video power means less waiting when you apply those eye-popping effects to your home movies.
Digitize your vocals quickly and clearly, and add a personalized soundtrack to your digital movies.
Let the imaging and music power flow to the newest PDAs and carry the benefits wherever you go.

The Intel® Pentium® 4 processor. The center of your digital world.

Why an Intel® Pentium® 4 processor? Because now your PC has bigger things to do. It's not just about emailing and surfing anymore – it's about music, video and a whole world of digital devices. While lesser processors can choke on these digital demands, the Pentium 4 processor is literally built for [illegible]. So you not only get a high-performance PC – you get the most enjoyment out of the digital devices you conn[illegible] See how the Pentium 4 processor can power your digital world at intel.com/apac/p[illegible]

intel®

©2001 Intel Corporation. Intel and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Other marks and brands are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

Someone emailed me about starting up an e-business.
That will make us e-gorots.

There's a new way of doing business for the net generation.

You'll have no problems getting your business online with PLDT Brains' Remote Access Service (RAS). We have points-of-presence all over the country to make it easier for you to get on the Net wherever you are. From identifying your needs to custom designing a solution, we'll be with you every step of the way. With PLDT Brains working with you, think of how big your business can grow.

PLDT Brains
BUSINESS BY INTELLIGENCE

PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
convergence@work

FOR MORE INFO ON PLDT REMOTE ACCESS SERVICE CALL 171 OR FAX (632) 844-5110 AND 1-800-10-800-PLDT OR E-MAIL PLDTBRAINS@PLDT.COM.PH